

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Special Broadcasting Service**

**Question No: 90**

**Program No. SBS**

**Hansard Ref: Page 38 (19/11/2013)**

**Topic: Coverage**

**Senator Bilyk asked:**

Mr Ebeid and Mr Khalil, welcome to another estimates. I am no longer a full member of this committee, but I came in because I had a couple of questions I wanted ask about digital television coverage. I think it was in August, but before the election anyway, that you received some funding to roll out to some new locations. Is that correct?

**Mr Ebeid:** That is correct.

**Senator BILYK:** Of particular interest to me, as you know from longstanding estimates with me, are areas of Tasmania—St Marys, Rosebery and Strahan—are they to be included? What is the timeline for that rollout and how it is all going?

**Mr Ebeid:** We did receive the money late last year. I think you are right: it was about August. It was for about 96 sites all around the country. We are working with our broadcast partner, Broadcast Australia, which is now going to be rolling out those new sites. I can get a detailed schedule to you of when those three locations you mentioned will be operational.

**Senator BILYK:** Are they the only Tasmanian ones?

**Mr Ebeid:** I will get you a list of all Tasmanian sites and when they will come on line...

**Mr Ebeid:** ...The total number was something like 40-odd new services and the rest were conversions, but, again, we can get the exact details of that from last August.

**Answer:**

**Tasmanian Equalisation Sites**

<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Area Served</b>	<b>Current Proposed On Air Date*</b>
Bicheno	Bicheno	By March 2014
Gardens Road	Binnalong Bay	By April 2014
Gentle Annie Hill RT	King Island	By April 2014
Mt Read	Rosebery	By March 2014
South Sister Hill	St Mary's	By April 2014
Ocean Beach Road	Strahan	By March 2014
Swansea	Swansea	By March 2014
Companion Hill RT	Waratah	By March 2014

\* Dates subject to change.

Note: Derby, Maydena and St Helens were part of the initial upgrade of self-help transmitters and are currently on air.