

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2009**

**Department of Finance and Deregulation**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Outcome: 2, Program: 2.1**

**Topic: National Broadband Network**

**Question reference number: F5**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 13, 27 May 2009**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 10 July 2009**

**Number of Pages: 1**

**Senator COONAN asked:**

**Senator COONAN** - That is the old Aurora proposal, is it?

**Mr Lewis** - It is not the old Aurora proposal. It draws on the Aurora/Tasmanian government proposal and has been adapted in the current negotiations being held with the Tasmanian government and in particular with Aurora. The details of that are for the communications department. In any case, they would be highly commercially sensitive at the present time, given that negotiations are presently underway. Our expectation is that therefore services will be most rapidly available in Tasmania. I could not give you a precise date as to when those services will be available, but we can certainly take that on notice and consult our colleagues in communications, who are the other half of the joint shareholder responsibility.

**Answer:**

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy has advised that commercial negotiations are currently underway to expedite the rollout of the National Broadband Network in Tasmania. The Government's objective is to commence the rollout in Tasmania soon and for services to start being delivered in early 2010.