



6 May 2008

Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT

By email

Dear Secretary

Estimate of AUSTAR customers in 'prescribed areas'

I refer to my letter of 1 May 2008 in which I advised that AUSTAR expected to be able to provide the Committee with a breakdown of how many AUSTAR customers we believe we have in 'prescribed areas' by the end of today.

In order to prepare the breakdown we needed further information from the mapping experts at the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) about what areas comprise 'prescribed areas' for the purposes of the NT emergency response legislation.

Unfortunately, since writing to you, FaHCSIA has been unable to provide us with the information we need. Accordingly, we cannot conduct the analysis the Committee has requested.

The only subscriber number analysis we have at this stage was prepared in full consultation with FaHCSIA in September 2007 and relates to then active AUSTAR accounts in the 32 'prescribed areas' we were able to identify at that time. A table setting out the names of the 'prescribed areas' included in the sample and our preliminary analysis of AUSTAR subscriber numbers in these areas is attached.

We are continuing to emphasise to FaHCSIA the fundamental importance of their input into our analysis as well as our need for certainty about what exactly the 'prescribed areas' referred to in the NT emergency response legislation are. It is obviously of great concern to us that we will potentially be subject to severe penalties for breach of our licence conditions under this draft legislation when there still does not appear to be a consensus on the definition of this basic element of the Bill.

We will let you know as soon as we receive the information we require and, if it is not too late by then, would be happy to provide the subscriber number analysis the Committee has asked for.



Please feel free to call Emma Rackley (on 02 9 394 9806) or me (on 02 9295 0153) if you would like to discuss the sample analysis attached in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Page Henty
Corporate Counsel

Accounts active

Manton	1	0	0	0
Nhulunbuy	1	0	0	0
Nitmiluk	1	0	0	0
Gregory	2	0	0	5
Hugh	2	0	0	1
Limnen	3	0	0	0
Tiwi Islands	3	1	1	0
Kulaluk	4	1	1	0
Micarthur	4	1	1	0
Daly River	5	0	0	0
Elliott North Camp	5	1	1	6
Pamayu	5	1	1	6
Kakadu	8	1	1	0
Nemarluk	8	1	1	1
Minimarama Park	9	0	0	6
Eisey	10	0	0	3

Petermann	10	1	0	0
Ali Curung	13	1	1	3
Tanami	13	1	1	0
Anmatjere	15	3	3	12
Gunbalanya	15	2	2	9
Lajamanu	15	1	1	5
Alpururulam (Lake Nash)	16	2	2	4
Beswick Creek	16	0	0	11
Amoonguna	17	1	1	8
Namatjira	20	0	0	4
East Arnhem	22	2	2	13
Lake Mackay	26	3	3	35
Chilla Well	29	1	1	10
Alyangula	50	3	3	64
Santa Teresa	50	3	3	5
West Arnhem	119	12	12	139