

Amendment to General Business Notice of Motion No 1335.

As listed on page 14 of today's Notice Paper in the name of Senator Griff

To move—That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

- (i) independent reviews conducted by the Regional Telecommunications Review Committee, the Productivity Commission and the Australian National Audit Office have all issued critical reports on the Universal Service Obligation (USO),
- (ii) the Productivity Commission has found the number of Australian payphones has almost halved over the last decade,
- (iii) the Department of Communications and the Arts estimates that 22% of copper services and 9% of payphones have been phased out since 2012,
- (iv) Telstra is currently paid almost \$300 million a year to maintain these services under the USO,
- (v) the Department of Communications and the Arts estimates the equivalent universal broadband delivery obligation on NBNCo for fixed wireless and satellite in regional areas will cost the entity in excess of \$800 million per annum, if operating on a full cost-recovery basis, and
- (vi) on 5 December 2018, the Minister for Communications and the Arts announced that the Government does not intend to change current USO arrangements, despite the Minister's report stating: "Network Strategies concluded that the delivery of voice services using wireless (mobile and fixed) and satellite technologies would be more cost effective than the current arrangements", and "Potential savings in the hundreds of millions of dollars over the period from 2020 to 2032 were identified"; and

~~(b) calls on the Federal Government to:~~

- ~~(i) release high-level cost modelling of the USO reform options, and~~
- ~~(ii) release the advice provided by NBNCo about the financial costs of servicing additional ADSL customers by 20 December 2018.~~

(b) orders that there be laid on the table by the Minister for Communications and the Arts by 5pm on Thursday 20 December 2018:

- (i) the high-level cost modelling of the USO reform options, and**
- (ii) advice provided by NBNCo about the financial costs of servicing additional ADSL customers.**