

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 63

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Multi technology model

Senator Urquhart asked:

On ABC radio on the 13 February, Dr Switowski said, QUOTE:

“Post the election, and post the Strategic review, we’ve now agreed on a multi technology model.” The strategic review is quite prescriptive on the various technologies that will exist by the end of the planned rollout. The strategic review states that in the fixed line footprint 24% of premises will have FTTP (mostly greenfields), 41% will have some form of FTTN and 28% will make do with HFC.”

- a. Will the CBA have any influence at all on the technology deployed, in the redesigned NBN?
- b. If the CBA will have an influence at all on the technology employed, will this affect the financial assumptions for Scenario 6?
- c. If the CBA will have no influence on the technology employed, why is it being done?
- d. If the CBA finds that the benefits of an all fibre solution far outweigh the costs and is a superior option to a multi – technology mix, will an all fibre solution be employed?
- e. If the CBA finds that the costs outweigh the benefits under any technology scenario, will the NBN be abandoned altogether?

Answer:

The Government considers it important that significant projects like the National Broadband Network (NBN) are based on thorough analysis as a normal part of the policy process. The cost – benefit analysis will help guide decisions on the future of fast broadband and the NBN in Australia. As the CBA is not finished, the Government will not pre-empt or speculate on its outcomes.