Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 19

Program 1.1 Hansard Ref: Page 57-58, 24/05/2017

Topic: Legislation change - mobile Broadband tax

Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked:

Senator O'NEILL: And under what authority would that occur? Who would be charged with implementing that?
Mr Madsen: The parliament would have to amend the legislation.
Senator O'NEILL: Which agency would be responsible?
Mr Robinson: Ourselves with ACMA, because they are the revenue collection entity.
Senator O'NEILL: With ACMA?
Mr Robinson: Yes.
Senator O'NEILL: Would any other agency be engaged in this process?
Mr Madsen: The ACCC also has a role in calculating the number of eligible lines and they could also be asked to give a view about changes within the industry.
Senator O'NEILL: Will they be enabled, by this legislation, to have some say in this?
Mr Madsen: I would have to take that on notice. I just cannot recall exactly the provisions in the

Mr Madsen: I would have to take that on notice. I just cannot recall exactly the provisio bill at this stage.

Answer:

Section 102ZFA in Schedule 4 to the Telecommunications Legislation Amendment (Competition and Consumer) Bill 2017 would require the Minister for Communications to conduct a review of the Regional Broadband Scheme in the first four years, or as soon as practicable after that. The Minister for Communications can decide who conducts the review and can also require both the ACCC and the ACMA to provide information to help facilitate the review.