

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: 61

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 31 (25/2/2014)

Topic: Interim Satellite Service

Senator Smith asked:

Thank you very much, Chair. Let me use the highly emotional language that going from 48,000 to 165,000 to 250,000 is extreme. I am surprised that the outrage that I am hearing from constituents has not been louder than it already is, and it is very, very loud. Let us move on from that point because I think it has been made. This is a question I will put to NBN if you do not have the answer. What is the current cost of the interim satellite service, in your understanding?

Mr Robinson: It is probably a question best put to NBN Co. I can take it on notice.

Senator Smith: Perhaps you can let me know on notice whether or not my estimate of \$350 million is accurate or, if it is not accurate, what the difference might be.

Mr Robinson: I will take it on notice, Senator. That is approximately what I think it would be.

Answer:

NBN Co has advised that expenditure as at 14 March 2014 for the interim satellite service is \$351 million.