

9 May 2025

Senator Karen Grogan
Chair
Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair,

Clarification: NBN Co evidence at the Estimates Hearing on 25 February 2025

I refer to the appearance of NBN Co Limited (NBN Co/ the Company) before the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee at the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on Tuesday, 25 February 2025. During this hearing I answered questions about various matters. The purpose of this letter is to clarify for the Committee a response I provided to the Committee at this hearing.

In answering a question about NBN Co's process for considering Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites I made the following statement.

Senator DAVEY: Have you as yet put a recommendation to the minister, or is that still some time away, for a future option for Sky Muster?

Mr Williams: We keep the minister and the department apprised of our progress.

Senator DAVEY: But you haven't formed a final recommendation?

Mr Williams: We're not in a position where we've got a final proposal that is 'inkable', if that's another way of responding.

Senator DAVEY: Is it fair to say that, when you do or whatever, the final proposal is that the minister will have to approve?

Mr Williams: It would be subject to—I'm careful of my words because I'm not sure technically of the processes. But, for a procurement exercise such as this, yes.

To clarify, with regard to LEO satellites, NBN Co is required to keep its shareholder Ministers (the Minister for Communications and the Minister for Finance) informed of the activities of the Company which in turn supports the Australian Government with its decision making, However, the Company itself does not have a legislative obligation to formally seek the approval of Ministers for entering into a LEO partnership. As I stated at the subsequent 27 March 2025 Budget Estimates Hearing, 'Over time, the department and the minister's office engaged and were apprised of updates'.





Confidential: nbn Commercial

I kindly seek your support with alerting other members of the Committee to this clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Williams', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mr Gavin Williams

Chief Development Officer – Regional and Remote

