

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2021-22 – 26-27 MAY & 7 JUNE 2021

INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS PORTFOLIO

QoN No.	Portfolio QoN No.	Department /Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Hearing Date	Transcript Page
1	SQ21-000357	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Conflict of interest - ABC funding from Mr Porter's perspective	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have there been any directions given to the department from the minister in relation to the parameters of what the negotiations should look like and what should be included in a review of the funding arrangement?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Not to me.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the minister been engaged at all on this issue as yet?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I think we're at the point where we're making sure that we have a pathway to bring forward consideration of the triennium.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: This is going to be negotiated and decided over the next 10 months, I guess, is what you're saying, if we're nearly in June. Has there been any discussion or any decision by the government- perhaps this is a question better for the minister, actually-to ensure that there's no conflict of interest with regard to ministers' decisions on the funding from Mr Porter's perspective?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll have to take that on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	10
2	SQ21-000359	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	News organisations that have deals with google	<p>Ms Sullivan: In terms of deals with Google, the latest update, to the best of our knowledge, is there have been 12 news organisations that have done deals with Google and seven with Facebook. I'm happy to run through the list if you want.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could, that would be helpful, thank you.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: In terms of Google showcase deals-I should add that</p>	26/05/2021	11

					this is based on deals and letters of intent for payment for news content-most announcements haven't contained remuneration and so forth. But I will run through them. There's just one other caveat before I get started: there's obviously a range of publications within each of these organisations which I am happy to provide you on notice.		
3	SQ21-000360	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Total negotiated money for commercial deals under the media bargaining code	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Will the ACCC have visibility in relation to total money negotiated or- Ms Sullivan: I would like to take that on notice. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, if you could. Thank you.	26/05/2021	11
4	SQ21-000381	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Producer offset reform	Senator GREEN: Right. I'll just move on to screen reforms. There's obviously been a lot of media attention around screen reforms; lots of high-profile people getting involved in the conversation. It always helps to move things along quickly. I wanted to understand why the decision was made not to proceed with the reduction in producer offsets from 40 per cent to 30 per cent in an Australian feature film. Dr Arnott: That was a decision of the government, following consultation with the screen sector. Senator GREEN: Minister, what was the reason behind not proceeding with that particular offset? Senator Hume: It was a decision of the Minister. I can take that on notice to find out the details for you but, obviously, there are an awful lot of decisions that get made in the context of a budget.	26/05/2021	113-114
5	SQ21-000382	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	RISE fund grant selection process	Senator PRATT: To what extent is the scheme oversubscribed? Has the funding gone to the top 20 per cent? How many funded grants sit below an unfunded grant with a higher rating, and what is the number of unfunded grants they sit below? Dr Arnott: I'll explain quickly to you how it works. I will need to take further detail on notice.... Mr Atkinson: It's just that it's because it's batched. In competitive	26/05/2021	110

					<p>rounds, like a regional grant, it operates differently. Dr Arnott will explain.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: In addition to scoring the applications against the criteria in the guidelines, we also look at things like geographic spread and regional locations to ensure that there's good national coverage. We consider a number of factors, so it doesn't purely go on score. We do look at other factors. So it won't always strictly be funded according to—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Merit. ...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Alright, so you've weighted them. May I ask about the characteristics of the batching for each batch—if you could take that question on notice.</p>		
6	SQ21-000383	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians	<p>Senator GREEN: I'll put some questions on notice. If I could, I will also, while I'm here, put on notice to understand what the nature of the contract was and what publication it related to. I'm also wondering how many hours of work were involved in the publication. I will put on the record that the reason I'm asking is that the book itself is only about 200 pages long—it's not a lengthy publication by any means—so it would be good to understand the amount of work that was involved, whether that was the only publication that was involved in that contract and whether that was a reasonable amount of money to pay for a 200-page book. I'm sure a lot of authors would love to be paid that type of money.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We'll take all those on notice and put them to the Museum to answer.</p>	26/05/2021	109
7	SQ21-000384	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Louise Pratt	Performance of SBS productions in overseas markets	<p>Senator PRATT: Finally, are there any particular SBS productions that have done particularly well overseas or in overseas markets?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I will take that on notice. I think what we've been quite successful at doing with our commissioned programs, and particularly our commissioned dramas, is attracting significant pre-sale commitments to dramas that we've been making, which obviously assists with the funding but also particularly assists with the viewing of Australian stories in different markets. But I'm very</p>	26/05/2021	108

					happy to provide more detail on specific programs that have sold well in international markets.		
8	SQ21-000385	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	The influence of online gaming on attitudes towards women	<p>Senator GREEN: Yes. I think there's been a lot of media coverage particularly around domestic violence but also of women and culture in this building and of the treatment of women in our country. Minister, you've spoken a lot about that over the last couple of months. I just want to know, given that that is an answer that the Minister for Defence has given about the way that online gaming is influencing the views or the behaviours, perhaps, of young men, what's your government doing to address that?</p> <p>CHAIR: Would you be happy to take that on notice?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: She's literally about to answer.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I was about to say I'm going to have to take it on notice. I don't know what the department is doing on it.</p>	26/05/2021	74
9	SQ21-000386	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Postal delivery service jobs, breakdown by state	<p>Senator SHELDON: I just want to be clear on your answer. Under the BCG reform path 3, it says '5,066 fulltime postal delivery officer jobs will be lost'. Whereabouts and which parts of the business was BCG proposing that they be lost in, in the sense of which states? Mr Windeyer: Sorry, no, I couldn't break that down for you. I'm happy to take that on notice and see whether we can but I would note that the total report continues to be covered by the public interest immunity claim, so there may be a limit to what I can confirm on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	71
10	SQ21-000387	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	BCG reform path predictions	<p>Senator SHELDON: I will make it a bit clearer. Did the BCG reform path 3 envisage that parcels and packets previously delivered by corporate postal workers would instead be streamed to contractors? Did the BCG report reform path 3 envisage that?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: To be honest, I would have to take that on notice. I can't actually immediately confirm whether or not that is the consequence of the BCG reform path, unless one of the officers at the table knows. I'm happy to take that on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	71
11	SQ21-000388	Department of Infrastructure,	Louise Pratt	Classification review	<p>Senator PRATT: I'm going to go to the classification review now. Has the report of the review of the classification regulation been</p>	26/05/2021	68

		Transport, Regional Development and Communications			<p>provided to state and territory ministers? If so, when? If not, why not?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It hasn't. It's still subject to consideration by the government, so it hasn't yet been provided to the states and territories.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So the reason it hasn't been provided is it's still on the minister's desk. Is that what you just said?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It is still being considered by the government; that's correct.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The review has been finished; correct?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The review has been completed, yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How long has it been on the minister's desk for?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We're happy to take that on notice.</p>		
12	SQ21-000389	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	HFC upgrade	<p>Senator PRATT: I think that's convenient spin, because the response to our question on notice makes it clear that only costs until July 2020 were captured and at least \$1 billion in additional costs, incurred between 2021 and 2024, were not included. The answer says: NBN Co's Corporate Plan 2021-2024 released in September 2020, included an additional \$400 million to upgrade the HFC network during this period. So, just to be clear, this \$400 million is on top of the \$600 million already factored into the 2020 corporate plan?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: As I said, I don't have the figures in front of me. I'd be happy to take the detail on notice, but my understanding is that there's a distinction here between maintaining the existing capacity on the HFC network as demand for data grows and making the investments to allow all of the customers on that HFC network to be able to access speeds of up to one gigabit per second.</p> <p>[p.67]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: But that's what the original \$600 million was for, as I understand it. To put this in context, the answer to an existing question on notice from 23 April 2018-that is No. 233 from</p>	26/05/2021	66-68

				<p>additional estimates spillover, and I'm happy to give that to you if you like-said: . nbn expects approximately 80 per cent of the HFC footprint to be gigabit capable, and this will rise to 100 per cent after the end of the migration window when Telstra's existing broadband services are switched off and all required upgrades are complete. So that indicates that back in 2018 NBN were already planning the HFC upgrade and had allocated the funds in the corporate plan.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can take it on notice, but I think there is a distinction, as Mr Madsen says. There are three concepts here now, I think. When the migration was complete and, as a consequence, NBN had full control over the bandwidth in the HFC cable, then they were getting to the point where the network was able to be upgraded to offer gigabit services. So it was gigabit-capable but an investment would need to be made in order to be able to sell gigabit services. Then there is the concept of the ongoing investment required when people on, let's say, a 50-megabit service increasingly use a certain amount of data. I think that-that's the point Mr Madsen is making-is where the \$600 million comes in. Then the third piece was the most recent announcement, which is actually the additional investment required to allow new products to be sold on the HFC cable, including products up to a gigabit per second.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, but that's not really what the initial announcement looked like. It indicated that this upgrade was planned back in 2018, and 80 per cent of the HFC network wasn't completed for its upgrade-wasn't even upgraded at all by the end of 2020.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can take that on notice. We'll go and look at the old questions on notice and provide an explanation as to the difference.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The issue here is: it looks like you're announcing new money for new technology, but, essentially, it looks very much</p>	
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					<p>to me like Mr Fletcher announced a \$400 million cost blow-out to an existing upgrade plan that was already underway. All the way along, if you follow the money, it seems that, actually, that \$400 million is not for anything new; it's to cover up a \$400 million cost blow-out. How incompetent is this minister, to try and sell something that's actually a failing of the corporate plan's implementation?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We can take on notice to give you what we understand the explanation to be. I think the explanation is as I have set it out, but we're very happy to take that on notice. ...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I understand the framing that you are putting around it, but, if you look at the time line, you might need to take on notice, in that context, at what date the gigabit-capable technologies were completed, because I want, very clearly, to be able to avoid any of the confusion around what seems to be an argument from the government that there's a difference between 'capable' and 'ready for sale'.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I understand that. So we'll look back through the history. NBN themselves may be able to offer you some clarification on this tomorrow as well. ...</p> <p>[p. 68]</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: We're certainly not trying to distract you. We're very happy to take on notice, as we've said, and explain what happened at points in time, and we will try and get as much information we can to explain what was invested in at what point in time to deliver what difference to the services that people could receive from that network. We will go back and give you an answer on notice that tries to explain what we think is the case.</p>		
13	SQ21-000390	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Louise Pratt	Monitoring of Alternative Voice Service grants	<p>Senator PRATT: How do you monitor the other grants if there's no technical monitoring, particularly in relation to the quality of the voice experience?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: That is part of the technical monitoring. Sorry, I</p>	26/05/2021	66

		Development and Communications			didn't give you the full range of criteria. I can if that helps. I don't have it with me, but we can take it on notice.		
14	SQ21-000391	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Breakdown of the Optus trial services	<p>Senator PRATT: ... In terms of the trials of satellite, is that a standard voice-over-IP solution over the Sky Muster broadband link, or is there any narrow broadband spectrum being set aside specifically for voice?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: The short answer is, I think, yes, capacity is being provided to support the voice channel over satellite on the NBN Co Sky Muster service. I'm just baulking at the idea of a standard voice over internet. There are basic standards in relation to it, but there are many different applications people use, as you've pointed out.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The website for this initiative has explained that Optus is offering 15 trial services at predetermined regional locations. But don't you mean that that's predetermined and regional customers?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: They are quite specific trials. For example, some are on stations or homesteads. So, yes, I guess you could say they're particular customers. But, to use one example, there's a station with-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So there are 15 services rather than 15 locations? Okay. I think that makes sense to me now. Am I correct in saying that?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: Yes, 15 services all up. There are five direct-to-home satellite services, from memory, and then there are two terrestrial wireless services, but they have multiple customers.</p> <p>Senator Pratt: Could you take on notice the actual locations for those 15 trial services. I'm trying to work out exactly what this means. Optus is trialling those locations. Is there a difference between, for example, a household or a station that was previously accessing voice services?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: I'll come back with the precise numbers. There are about five direct-to-home satellite services. Most of the customers participating in the trial already have existing services. This is just</p>	26/05/2021	64-65

					looking at a different way to deliver it. Some of them are direct-to-home satellite services. The other ones are basically situations where Optus has put in a small cell to provide a voice service within that group of premises at a homestead or wi-fi to use that to provide for services within a cluster of homes.		
15	SQ21-000392	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Rationale for use of low-band fixed wireless for the trial voice services	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you provide some further information, please, about what spectrum low-band fixed wireless uses-whether that spectrum is also used for broadband by NBN and what value that adds or subtracts from the voice experience?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: I'll probably come back with details on notice if that's okay. Basically, the trial is in low band because it has a greater propagation distance, so you can cover a larger area and a larger number of customers. From memory, I think it's an 850 to 900 megahertz band. NBN Co has some scientific trial licences for it.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We'll get you more detail on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Thank you.</p>	26/05/2021	64
16	SQ21-000393	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Break-up of NBN Co's 260 trial voice services across different technologies	<p>Senator PRATT: I understand that NBN Co is going to deliver up to 260 trial services nationwide, and it will trial voice services over data on its fixed wireless and satellite networks and also trial voice services using a new low-band fixed wireless solution. Given that, for clarity, do those 260 trial services mean providing services to 260 individuals or in 260 areas?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: It's 260 individual trial services.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Just to clarify, how are they all a different service?</p> <p>Mr P Mason: There are three different NBN Co technologies being trialled. The first is providing voice over its existing fixed wireless network, the second is providing voice over its Sky Muster satellite service, and the third is providing voice over fixed wireless but at a lower spectrum band to what NBN Co currently uses.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So there are three technologies-</p> <p>Mr P Mason: Yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How does that relate to the 260 trial services?</p>	26/05/2021	63

					Mr P Mason: Could I take on notice the exact break-up? There is an allocation between different technologies, I think.		
17	SQ21-000394	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	5G protests	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: What, if anything, did the department do in response to the 5G protest marchers in the community? Did you provide briefings to the minister or to government? Did you provide advice to law enforcement agencies?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'm not sure that we provided any advice specifically in relation to those.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: You didn't provide any briefings to your minister? It seemed of significant importance, with the announcement and money expended.</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: We were aware of that activity, but I don't recall providing a specific briefing.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Could you take on notice whether you did provide any briefings to the minister, advice to law enforcement agencies or anything proactive in that space then?</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: Yes.</p>	26/05/2021	62
18	SQ21-000395	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Consultations with the Department of Health regarding misinformation on 5G and COVID-19	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Did the department undertake any consultation or liaison with Health during 2020 in relation to 5G misinformation in the context of COVID?</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: We did undertake some liaison with Health which led to the chief medical officer issuing a statement around the link between 5G and the coronavirus. I think that was in May 2020, but I could get the details of that for you, if that's helpful.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Was that the only consultation or liaison with Health?</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: I believe we have other consultations, given that they have responsibility for ARPANSA, but I'd need to take the details of that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Okay, can you take that on notice and provide me with that please?</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: Sure.</p>	26/05/2021	61-62

19	SQ21-000396	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Expenditure of 5G safety campaign funding	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I want to go to 5G. I'm seeking to understand what the department's done to build community confidence in 5G safety and to address 5G misinformation, particularly in the context of COVID-19. There was an announcement made in December 2019 of \$9 million over four years. I want to go to that announcement. ...</p> <p>[p. 61]</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Between when the announcement was made and now, how much of that fund has actually been spent in total?</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: I'd need to take the details of that on notice.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I'm interested in how it's been expended so far. I'm happy for you to take it on notice and get a breakdown. I want what's been spent, what's been committed and on what, within that \$9 million.</p> <p>Ms Blackwood: In terms of the breakdown of the department's funding, we received \$102,000 in 2019-20. That went to that market research that I was telling you about. I can provide the exact details of that contract on notice, if you like. For the 2020-21 component, we've got \$642,000 that we're looking to spend across that range of activities, including the market research, the paid search advertising, development of content for our website- those sorts of activities. I'm happy to provide a breakdown on notice</p>	26/05/2021	60-61
20	SQ21-000397	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Rachel Siewert	Data sharing - gambling	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Can I outline the issue I want to ask about; then you can tell me to go to the ACMA, if that's appropriate? There's an issue around gambling-we're particularly hearing this from financial counsellors and things-where a client ceases gambling with one company, and the company then trades that client's information with another gambling company, and offers target incentives and things like that. It's a bit different from the affiliates, but a similar way of trying to get people gambling again. Is this issue on your radar? Are you aware of the fact that basically they're sharing their data, they're providing incentives and selling</p>	26/05/2021	59-60

					<p>it et cetera? First off, are you aware of this?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: No, I'm not, Senator, but I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Could you take it on notice for me, please? Since you're not aware of it, you can't tell me whether you think the legislation needs strengthening.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: No, but I will- Senator SIEWERT: Perhaps you could take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Senator, it sounds like that would be an issue that would be worth raising with the ACCC as well.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Yes. That is a very good point.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I feel that we keep suggesting that you talk to other people, but some of this begins to get into the general gambling policy piece rather than the piece that fits within the communications piece. There may be merit in exploring this with DSS as well, because we are in the business of being able to put restrictions on some things. The Interactive Gambling Act obviously does a job. The primary job that the Interactive Gambling Act has done is to restrict the sorts of things that can be licensed in Australia. But it doesn't, in and of itself, allow anyone to operate in Australia. They need to go through a state licensing regime as well. We'll happily take it on notice and see what we can come back to you on, but there are probably a few other parties with an interest in it.</p>		
21	SQ21-000398	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Rachel Siewert	Civil penalties applied to individuals for provision/advertising of illegal gambling services	<p>Senator SIEWERT: I have had a discussion with them about affiliates, so that's good news. I'll chase that up with them tomorrow. Can I ask about the Interactive Gambling Act? I understand that it contains civil penalty provisions-stop me if I'm saying anything that's incorrect-which can apply to individuals who assist in the provision or advertising of illegal interactive gambling services in Australia, online casinos for example. Can you tell me-you may need to take this on notice; I appreciate that-how many times civil penalties have been applied to individuals for the</p>	26/05/2021	59

					<p>provision or advertising of illegal interactive gambling services?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: We'll certainly take that on notice, Senator.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Thank you. It may be too much, I realise, to go back to the implementation of the act, which is a significant period of time, but perhaps you could tell me how many over the last five years, and any detail you can give me. I appreciate there may be—</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: Sure. We'll see what we can find out, and we'll come back to you.</p>		
22	SQ21-000399	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Rachel Siewert	Monitoring the time and intensity of gambling	<p>Senator SIEWERT: Have you been monitoring the changes in the volume and nature of gambling advertisements?</p> <p>Mr Potkins: Yes, we do monitor the change in content.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: What have you seen in your monitoring?</p> <p>Mr Potkins: The data that we have suggests that there has been an increase in gambling advertising over the last year, but it's still below pre-COVID levels. The data that we have is within that time frame.</p> <p>Senator SIEWERT: Do you monitor when it is and the intensity of it?</p> <p>Mr Potkins: No, we do not. However, I'll take that on notice because ACMA may have done some monitoring in the past.</p>	26/05/2021	59
23	SQ21-000400	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Update on lost landline and internet services in Lockhart River, Cape York	<p>Senator GREEN: Just lastly, another community in Cape York, Lockhart River, lost landline and internet services a few weeks back for quite a few days. The impact was pretty severe. They rely on the internet for issues around using petrol bowsers. They weren't able to fill up cars and whatnot. They obviously weren't able to call 000. It ended up being a couple of days. They've obviously spoken to Telstra about it. Telstra installed a 4G tower in the months preceding the outage, but the mayor says that they're continuing to experience really poor coverage. So even though the tower is there the coverage isn't there. I just wanted to know whether you'd had an update on this situation and what the department's doing to work with the community in Lockhart River to make sure that this doesn't happen again.</p>	26/05/2021	52-53

					<p>Mr Paterson: Just give me a second. We'll have to take it on notice in regard to mobile black spots. I'm just looking to see if any of my other colleagues might know about this particular issue. I think we're going to have to take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: It might be easier to take it on notice and see what we are aware of and what engagement we might have had. If it's not a black spot program it may not be one that has come to our attention. Currently it might be being dealt with directly with Telstra. But we can make inquiries and see what we are looking at.</p>		
24	SQ21-000401	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Re-announcement of Archer Tower	<p>Senator GREEN: When it comes to Archer River, in 2019 the government made an announcement. The local member, Warren Entsch, made an announcement for the Archer River mobile tower. This has now been re-announced as a replacement of that tower two years later. But there are not two different towers; the tower from two years ago hasn't been built, for whatever reason. It is a re-announcement of that tower from two years ago, through the black spot program.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: Yes. I will take some of this on notice, just to make sure that we can clearly spell out the time line and so forth for you. What would have happened is that, with the original Optus small cell, they wouldn't have been able to get approval for the land. That would then have been what's called 'frustrated' under the program, which means it can't be built. It would have dropped out.</p>	26/05/2021	49
25	SQ21-000402	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Archer River tower in Cape York	<p>Senator GREEN: There would have been a round announced in 2019. If it's been going for a while, that would have been just one of the rounds, I'm assuming?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: It was probably round 5A. I will check with my colleague.</p> <p>Mr Smurthwaite: The outcomes of round 5 of the program were announced on 21 April 2020.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I've got one tower that I want to ask you about- the Archer River tower in Cape York. In which round was that one announced?</p>	26/05/2021	48

					<p>Mr Smurthwaite: We've recently announced it as a replacement site for a round 4 site, so we will be building it. The initial one-</p> <p>Senator GREEN: The initial announcement was back in 2019.</p> <p>Mr Smurthwaite: In Archer River-</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Which round was it in? When was it originally announced?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We think it was round 4, but we'll have to take that on notice, Senator.</p>		
26	SQ21-000403	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Co-existence on the NBN copper network	<p>Senator PRATT: If it is statutory compliance and someone does not comply, often there is an agency you can go to and say, 'We've been wronged in this way; please fix it'. Who do people go to if they cannot access that speed?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: There are a couple of things here. The ACMA is the organisation responsible for compliance and enforcement with respect to the Statutory Infrastructure Provider rules. That is the regulator. The other point is that some of these customers, some households, may have openly entered into a contract with their retail which takes a speed lower than 25 and, therefore-I don't know-may not necessarily want to complain to someone about the lack of 25. But the 25 megabit per second requirement which is imposed at the wholesale level is enforced by the Australian Communications and Media Authority.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Mr Madsen, what percentage of the copper footprint no longer has coexistence? You are not able to tell me that now?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: No; I'm sorry, Senator. We would have to take that on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	44
27	SQ21-000404	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Minimum speeds	<p>Senator PRATT: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr Atkinson and Senator Hume. The coalition made a promise that every Australian household would have access to minimum speeds of 25 megabits per second by 2016. It is now May 2021. Can you confirm that up to 200,000 Australian households who are on the NBN cannot currently access minimum download or upload speeds, noting that</p>	26/05/2021	42-44

				<p>the government promised there would be a minimum speed and that every household would have access to it by 2016?</p> <p>Ms Brown: Sure. That information was provided in the NBN's report to the minister on their assessment of whether the network was built and fully operational. I am trying to see if I have a more recent number, but I can confirm that at that time two per cent of the network were unable to achieve peak speeds of 25.4 megahertz per second.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you have a current figure, I would be grateful for that.</p> <p>Ms Brown: Does Mr Madsen have a more current figure?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: I'm sorry, I don't have a more current figure.</p> <p>Ms Brown: That was the figure as at November 2020.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What is the figure now?</p> <p>Ms Brown: We would have to take that on notice. Unfortunately, we don't have a more current number with us.</p> <p>[p.44]</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I am thoroughly confused by this. If you are on the NBN, you are supposed to be able to deliver a minimum speed of 25 megabits per second. That is what you are supposed to receive. Are statutory providers required to deliver a minimum speed of 25 megabits per second and upload speeds of five megabits?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: You're referring to the Statutory Infrastructure Provider rules, I believe?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, I am.</p> <p>Mr Madsen: That's correct. The government has established a minimum service speed, which is consistent with what the expectation has been for NBN as it has built its network. The expectation is that those networks will deliver that speed and, if they are not doing it, that they would do so as quickly as they can. Here there are some technical issues where NBN is trying to avoid affecting the quality of service for some broadband users who are not on its network. So yes, the effect of that has meant that there</p>		
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					<p>is a group of customers who are not obtaining the maximum speed. But in those circumstances the alternative would be to affect the broadband experience of other households that are not on the NBN network.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So how many of the 238,000 households that aren't receiving that minimum are part of that crossover?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, we can take it on notice to see what we can do in terms of both confirming for you the most recent number that can't get 25 megabits per second and then giving a breakdown of the categories, as best we can, that they fall into. Coexistence is one of the most significant reasons, but there will be some other reasons why a household may not be able to experience 25 megabits per second. We will break that down for you on notice.</p>		
28	SQ21-000409	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Source of funding for Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund	<p>Mr Windeyer: It was a decision of government to establish the fund.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: It wasn't cuts from the ABC that created this fund which you've had to then use for the PING three years later?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: No. It was a decision of government at the time to establish a fund, in the normal budget process.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Can you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Yes.</p>	26/05/2021	37
29	SQ21-000410	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Nine and ACM - term of grant agreement	<p>Senator GREEN: What is the term of the grant agreement? When does it end?</p> <p>Mr Makin: The exact end date for each grant varies, but it's a 12-month agreement. It's 12 months from the day-</p> <p>Senator GREEN: The one for WIN, Nine and ACM?</p> <p>Mr Makin: WIN is 14 August, but I don't think I have the dates for the other two.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: We can come back to you with that.</p> <p>Mr Makin: We can come back on notice with those dates.</p>	26/05/2021	37
30	SQ21-000411	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Nita Green	PING guideline - breaches	<p>Senator GREEN: I want to ask some follow-up questions about the PING program. The department's guidelines for that program are dated 7 May 2020. I want to understand part of the eligibility</p>	26/05/2021	36

		Regional Development and Communications			<p>requirements which we've discussed.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What will happen under the guidelines and under the program if there is a breach of that eligibility criteria?</p> <p>Mr Makin: We would have to work through the provisions of the grant agreement and work with them, if there's a breach, on what that means for the grant amount.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What does the guideline say?</p> <p>Mr Makin: I don't have the guidelines in front of me. I'd have to take on notice what the guidelines themselves say.</p>		
31	SQ21-000414	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Samantha McMahon	Show Starter Loan Scheme - Feedback	<p>Senator McMAHON: I'd like to ask a supplementary question, please, Chair. Has there been any feedback from industry from those who have received loans?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes, we have received very positive feedback from those who have been through the scheme, in that they were able to negotiate the scheme with ease and in a timely manner and negotiate loans successfully with the bank.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can you table that feedback?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I can take that on notice. It was provided to me as part of the loans process; they may not wish that to be-</p> <p>CHAIR: You can take that on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	30
32	SQ21-000415	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anthony Sheldon	Show Starter Loan Scheme - Guy Sebastian	<p>Senator SHELDON: The question was: has Guy Sebastian been in contact with the Prime Minister's office since the initial contact?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Minister? Senator Hume: Not that I'm aware of.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Are you able to come back to us about whether he has or hasn't? Are you able to give us any details of what-</p> <p>Senator Hume: We're happy to do that.</p>	26/05/2021	29
33	SQ21-000416	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Sarah Hanson-Young	Applications from international acts - festivals	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So, just to be clear, a bunch of the applications on foot are directed towards the summer season; is that right?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I couldn't be sure of that; I'd have to look at them. I certainly know that there are plans in place for summer. What I'm</p>	26/05/2021	26

		Development and Communications			<p>hearing is optimism around the domestic environment. Obviously, the issue around quarantine and bringing international acts into Australia is still live, and that's the case for anyone coming into Australia from overseas, of course.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is the minister being lobbied to help support international acts being allowed to arrive in Australia?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I can't answer that, but I can say that I do meet with representatives of those promoters who are focused on bringing international acts into Australia. In fact, I met with a couple of them this week, and they're certainly raising that issue about 'when' and 'how can we work with the health restrictions to facilitate bringing international artists into Australia'.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Perhaps this is a question on notice and it might have to go to the minister's office. I'd like to know how many applications for support have been put forward to the department or the minister's office in relation to getting people here. I just know-full disclosure-that people are asking me to help, so I imagine they're going straight to the minister's office as well.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can clarify that the minister has met with members of the live sector. I can't give you any further details, but I can take that on notice.</p>		
34	SQ21-000417	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Breakdown of modelling for COVID response package	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. I want to go back to some of the COVID response package funding. Dr Arnott, I was asking what type of modelling has been used. I'd like to know how many jobs the government estimated the RISE funding would create or, in the words of the minister, generate....</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are there any papers that break down this analysis that you can table for us? Is there a report or a briefing paper that went around the department?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Can we just take on notice whether we can provide you with something about what the analytics look like as to the job assumptions?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes. Let me be clear: I'm not critical of</p>	26/05/2021	25-26

					<p>this; I think this is fantastic.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I understand that. That's why I'm asking whether there's anything that we can find for you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I think we should be spending more money in this area to create that number of jobs if we're going to get that bang for our buck. I'm actually trying to help you. Whatever we can have would be helpful.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: That was why I offered to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Great. Just to be clear in terms of this question about opening up, you must have had to make some assumptions about COVID in relation to coming up with some of those figures, so anything that fits in that can give us a bit of an insight into the predictions that you've had to make would be helpful.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We'll take that on notice as part of the previous question, if that's okay.</p>		
35	SQ21-000418	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Date response to question on notice provided to minister's office	<p>Senator PRATT: I have a couple of other questions about questions on notice and their answers. We put on notice a chamber question to the government on 3 September last year about Australia Post's spending on plants. The response was due on 3 October, and I note that Australia Post provided a response to the shareholder department on 2 October. That's correct, is it not?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take it on notice to check those details.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That is the information we got in answers on notice. On that note, the government appears to have sat on the response to question 1888 and not released it until 20 October.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Could you give us the dates again?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Last year.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Yes, so 4 September and then 20 October. Are they the two key dates?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The response was due on 3 October, and Australia Post gave it to the department on the second. In that context, I</p>	26/05/2021	24 & 28

				<p>want to ask the following questions. I refer to the response to questions on notice to the department during the Australia Post inquiry, which was lodged on 5 May. We asked:</p> <p>With reference to Senate question on notice number 1888, on what date did Australia Post first provide a draft response to the Department?</p> <p>The department said:</p> <p>Australia Post's response to Parliamentary Question on Notice number 1888 was first provided to the Department on 2 October 2020.</p> <p>Can the department come back later today and advise: on what date was Australia Post's response to question on notice 1888 supplied to the department on 2 October and then first passed on to the minister or his office? I want to ask that now so we can follow up later today.</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I might be able to assist you. Senator Kitching asked a question about the timing of the compiling of the response to question 1888, which we have already responded to. This was question No. 277. I can get you a copy of that if you wish.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That has been answered, has it?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: That has been answered, yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That is in relation to the date; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: That's in relation to the delay in getting the committee a response to 188. It details when the information was provided to Australia Post; whether we went back to Australia Post for additional information and clarification, which we did; and the clearance times within the response to that question.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay; including the time line with the minister's office?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: We have times at which it went to the office, I believe.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'll check that and come back at the end of this section, if I need to clarify.</p>		
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36	SQ21-000419	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kimberley Kitching	Date Secretary wrote to the chief executives of the 28 portfolio agencies	<p>Senator KITCHING: Mr Atkinson, thank you for your letter dated 20 May and thank you for informing me in the queue at Aussies in relation to collecting more information. When did you write this letter? In your letter, you say, 'I've written to the chief executives of the 28 portfolio agencies', et cetera. When did you write to them? Mr Atkinson: I'll take the exact date on notice. It was an email.</p>	26/05/2021	23
37	SQ21-000420	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Disclosure of political party affiliations - board appointments process	<p>Senator PRATT: Senator Urquhart, might I ask a supplementary question? Is there any requirement on board members to disclose political party affiliations? Mr Atkinson: Can I take that on notice?</p>	26/05/2021	23
38	SQ21-000421	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Mr D'Orazio - total earned from board appointments	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. What does Mr D'Orazio earn in total remuneration from board appointments in the communications portfolio on an annual basis? Ms Sullivan: I'll take that on notice. Senator URQUHART: So you don't know if it is under or over \$200,000 a year? Ms Sullivan: For the ABC or across- Senator URQUHART: No. For the three; linked to the other two. Ms Sullivan: I can't comment on across the three. Senator URQUHART: So you'll take that on notice. Are you able to come back to us with that during the morning? Ms Sullivan: Sure.</p>	26/05/2021	22

39	SQ21-000422	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Board appointments - Mr D'Orazio	<p>Senator URQUHART: Mr D'Orazio has been appointed as an ABC board member. How many Commonwealth government board appointments does he now hold within the communications portfolio?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: My understanding is that he holds two other appointments.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So three in total?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: Yes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is this unusual within the communications portfolio?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I would have to take that on notice, though I do note that Peter Tonagh also holds another position in the portfolio. But in regard to broader communications appointments I would definitely have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So it's unprecedented-if you could take that on notice</p>	26/05/2021	21
40	SQ21-000423	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	Extra eSafety staff employed after the budget	<p>Senator GREEN: Minister, I wanted to ask you some questions about the investment in the budget around esafety and protecting women online. The budget included some investments in this space and I just wanted to find out, with \$18 million listed in the Women's Budget Statement, how many extra staff will be employed to carry out that funding and how many extra staff will be employed to administer the new adult cyberabuse scheme, in particular?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll have to take the staffing numbers on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	4
41	SQ21-000428	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Producer offset reform - savings	<p>Dr Arnott: Screen Australia and the ACTF have been provided with \$53 million in additional funding to boost their support for the industry.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Is that the translation of the saving from that change?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't know whether there's a direct correlation.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Hansard would not have seen your headshake. I'm</p>	26/05/2021	114-115

					<p>very sorry.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I said no. I said that I would have to take it on notice but I don't think there is a direct correlation between the \$53 million and changes to the offset.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: It could be more; it could be less.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes, that's right.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I would like to know what the saving is to the budget to understand whether there is a correlation or whether the saving exceeds what is actually being invested.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: I understand. I'll have to look at what is cabinet-in-confidence with regard to the information.</p>		
42	SQ21-000439	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	Conflict of interest statements	<p>Senator PRATT: I would assume it is something you would know. If so, maybe you could place on the public record for us anyone who has disclosed in their conflict of interest statements that they do have a political party affiliation.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Are you asking inside of individual boards' governance and management of their conflicts, or are you asking as part of the appointment processes?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Appointment processes.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I would have to take on notice whether or not that is part of that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So you simply don't know?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: Not off the top of my head, no. I don't know</p>	26/05/2021	23
43	SQ21-000440	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	ASL breakdown of additional eSafety staff	<p>Senator GREEN: The 20 investigators - they're ASL? They're not labour contractors or anything like that?</p> <p>Ms Gannon: I'd have to check that, Senator - I think it is ASL, but I can check that for you.</p>	26/05/2021	6
44	SQ21-000441	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Nita Green	Women's online safety budget measures	<p>Senator Hume: I can give you a list of services that we provide for women's economic security and safety in the budget and I will do that that, if you like, but I don't have it in front of me and this is not the Women's Economic Security portfolio, so—</p>	26/05/2021	6-7

		Development and Communications			<p>Senator GREEN: No, I'm asking about online abuse. I'm not asking about general women's safety...</p> <p>Senator Hume: I think I gave you that list a little earlier on.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I was listening for the adult cyberbullying part of the investigations—that was what I was asking about. But, if you've got that list and you want to provide it on notice, that's fine as well.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I think the key points—and we can break them down. I'm very happy to break them down for you.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes, that would be good.</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The minister ran through the \$29 million in this budget, which is in addition to, I think importantly, the point Ms Gannon made earlier, which is the \$39 million that was introduced last year in anticipation of the new bill being passed and introducing the adult cyberabuse scheme. There's been an increase in investment in e-safety and a significant increase in e-safety resources over the last two budgets, all in anticipation of the passage of the bill that's currently before the parliament. So, in terms of looking at the resources that are being put towards the work of the eSafety Commissioner, it's important to take into account the 39 as well as the 29, and we can very happily break down what those are designed to cover.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: That would be helpful to understand how the whole package is working together, what the announcement in this budget will actually cover and how that's going to benefit women like Ms Harris and Ms Molan, whose cases are examples that have been given by the minister extensively. I want to make that link to understand how the funding will actually help those women make complaints and what the government's going to do to assist those types of complaints.</p>		
45	SQ21-000442	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Louise Pratt	Research into the effects of video games	Senator PRATT: Can I ask if the department has initiated any research into the effects of video games on players, particularly children?	26/05/2021	69

		Regional Development and Communications			<p>Ms Sullivan: Not recently. In terms of video games-and I will double-check this and come back-there was a piece of research done in 2018 around in-game loot boxes and so forth. That's been published on the website. That was also an input into the Stevens review. I will come back though and check-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The gaming landscape changes quite quickly, as does the way children engage with the different apps that they access. So 2018 is actually quite a long time ago. Do you have any ongoing research? What are the current trends that you're aware of?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: We don't have any ongoing research at the moment. There were a number of reports, in my understanding, in 2019. I'll come back to you on those. I started in this role in 2020; that's why I don't have them right at the top of my head. I'm happy to come back to you on the other research that has been undertaken.</p>		
46	SQ21-000443	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Mr D'Orazio's appointment	<p>Senator URQUHART: Why did the media release of the minister, Paul Fletcher, on Mr D'Orazio's appointment to the ABC board fail to mention his roles on the board of Australia Post and the Australia Council?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I'm sorry; I didn't have anything to do with the media release.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So the government doesn't draft it, check it and sign off on it?</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: I am not sure.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Ms Sullivan?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: The normal process is that we would prepare a draft-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That is what I understand.</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: Then it is finalised within the office. I would need to go back and have a look at what our original draft was, but the final release is a matter for the minister.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you may have put something on there about his appointments to the other boards-</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I honestly don't know. I am happy to take it on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	22

47	SQ21-000335	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Contract with Boston Consulting Group	<p>Senator URQUHART: When did that contract with Boston Consulting Group commence; when did it finish?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I'd have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: What were they specifically looking for and evaluating?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Again, I can take it on notice</p>	27/05/2021	60
48	SQ21-000351	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Rex Patrick	Regional and small publishers innovation fund replication	<p>Ms O'Loughlin: As a result, we were looking at these funds at a time when COVID hit, and there was a bit of a pivot of what was required.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Okay. Noting your advice, I would look to the minister and ask that perhaps you take on notice whether or not the government-noting the success of this program for regional areas-would be open to perhaps replicating that program at some stage in the future.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Thank you very much.</p>	27/05/2021	100
49	SQ21-000432	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Boston Consulting Group contract variation	<p>Senator URQUHART: The government, as I understand it, varied the Boston Consulting Group contract by \$598,000; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Boys: Both the Boston Consulting Group pieces which I think you're referring to were matters for government, not for Australia Post.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Senator Hume?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Not that I'm aware of, but I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I can tell you that my understanding is that they did.</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'll take it on notice.</p>	27/05/2021	58-59
50	SQ21-000374	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Grants programs or funds administered by the department	<p>1. For all grants programs or funds administered by the department, please provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the program or fund Total budgeted funding Total funding paid out to grant recipients Final decision-maker <p>2. Were there any new grants programs or funds to be</p>		Written

					<p>administered by the department introduced in the 2021-22 Budget?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide:</p> <p>i. Name of the program or fund</p> <p>ii. Total budgeted funding</p> <p>iii. Final decision-maker (or intended final decision-maker)</p> <p>3. Were there any grants programs or funds to be administered by the department provided with additional funding in the 2021-22 Budget?</p> <p>a. If so, please provide:</p> <p>i. Name of the program or fund</p> <p>ii. Funding profile for the additional funding over the forward estimates</p>		
51	SQ21-000375	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	LGBTIQ applications for RISE funding	<p>In reference to the following Hansard transcript excerpt:</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How many applications for RISE funding came from LGBTIQ+ organisations or were for LGBTIQ+ themed events? How many applications would have referenced LGBTIQ+ communities? How many were successful and how many were rejected?</p> <p>Dr Arnott : What I have in front of me is that we received 93 applications from applicants that had an explicitly described diversity component, some of which would have included LGBTIQ+, some of which would have included Indigenous, some of which would have included disability, and so on. There were 10 applications that specified that they were either targeted for or involved LGBTIQ+ or gender diverse audience targets. I can't tell you, I don't think, how many were successful, but I'll check in with my colleague. Those 10 were successful.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So 10 LGBTIQ+ applications.</p> <p>Dr Arnott : Yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: They were approved and came through the process. I'm still somewhat confused about the rating and the batching process. Is it only because of the batching that something</p>		Written

					<p>with a higher rating than another organisation might get through your prioritised list of how many you recommend?</p> <p>Dr Arnott : What I was describing was that the first process we go through is to check for eligibility. The second process we go through is assessing the applications and giving them a score, from 100 down to whatever the lowest one is, but a maximum possible of 100. Once we have that list, then we go through and look for form, diversity, geographic spread, regional access, et cetera; and then we make some judgements of that to ensure that we have a good mix of projects. In that instance, something that, for example, scored 90 might fall below something that scored somewhat lower, because we needed to prioritise that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Because you need more diversity or something in a particular batch.</p> <p>Dr Arnott : Precisely.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: And the minister has, in all cases, accepted the department's recommendations, and not put their own view?</p> <p>Dr Arnott : That's correct.</p> <p>1. How many of the 10 LGBTIQ applications for RISE funding which were successful at the first stage (ie. Confirming eligibility) were ultimately funded?</p> <p>2. What reasons can be given for an application making it through the first stage, but not the second?</p> <p>3. Does the Department consider LGBTIQ events to be an important part of its diversity requirements?</p> <p>4. Does the Department consider that the number of LGBTIQ events funded through RISE was sufficient? If so, why?</p>		
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52	SQ21-000559	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Gerard Rennick	Censoring valid information and free speech	1) Who regulates the social media companies to ensure they aren't censoring valid information and free speech?		Written
53	SQ21-000444	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Executive Management	1. In relation to executive management for the Department and its agencies, can the following be provided for 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021: a. The total number of executive management positions b. The aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions. c. The change in the number of executive manager positions. d. The change in aggregate total remuneration payable for all executive management positions.		Written
54	SQ21-000445	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial functions	1. In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, can the following be provided: a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided.		Written
55	SQ21-000446	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial meals	1. In relation to any breakfasts, luncheons, dinners or other meals hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, can the following be provided:		Written

		Development and Communications			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of dates and types of meals. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided. 		
56	SQ21-000447	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental functions	<p>1. In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021 can the following be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. List of functions. b. List of all attendees. c. Function venue. d. Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). e. Details of any food served. f. Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage. g. Any available photographs of the function. h. Details of any entertainment provided. 		Written
57	SQ21-000448	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Executive office upgrades	<p>1. Have any furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries been upgraded for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021. If so, can an itemised list of costs please be provided (GST inclusive).</p>		Written
58	SQ21-000449	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Kristina Keneally	Facilities upgrades	<p>1. Were there any upgrades to facility premises at any of the Departments or agencies for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31</p>		Written

		Regional Development and Communications			December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021. This includes but is not limited to: staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment. 2. If so, can a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrades be provided together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). 3. If so, can any photographs of the upgraded facilities be provided.		
59	SQ21-000450	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Staff travel	1. What is the total cost of staff travel for departmental/agency employees for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.		Written
60	SQ21-000451	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Legal costs	1. What are the total legal costs for the Department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.		Written
61	SQ21-000452	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Secretarial travel	1. Can an itemised list of the costs of all domestic and international travel undertaken by the Secretary of the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021 be provided including: a. Flights for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel. b. Ground transport for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. c. Accommodation for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.		Written

					<p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Secretary as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Secretary's travel should also be provided.</p>		
62	SQ21-000453	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	FOI	<p>1. Please list the number of Freedom of Information Act requests ('FOI requests') received by the Department for the following years:</p> <p>a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; 2019-20, and; f. 2020-21 to date.</p> <p>2. For each year above, please provide:</p> <p>a. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in full; b. The number of FOI requests the Department granted in part; c. The number of FOI requests the Department refused in full; and d. The number of FOI requests the Department refused for practical reasons under the Freedom of Information Act.</p> <p>3. For each year above, please also provide:</p> <p>a. The number of times the Department failed to make any decision on a FOI request within the 30 day statutory period; and b. The number of times a request to the Department resulted in a practical refusal (i.e. no decision was made on the request).</p> <p>4. For each year above, please also provide:</p> <p>a. The number of times the Department's FOI decisions have been appealed to the OAIC; and b. The number of times has the OAIC overturned – in whole or in</p>		Written

					<p>part – the Department’s decision to refuse access to material.</p> <p>5. Please provide the staffing (both ASL and headcount) of staff at the Department who work exclusively on FOI requests, broken down by APS level (e.g. three EL1s, four APS6s, one SES) for each of the following years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2013-14; b. 2014-15; c. 2015-16; d. 2016-17; e. 2018-19; f. 2019-20, and; g. 2020-21 to date. <p>6. For each of the years above, please also list the number of officers who are designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Department.</p> <p>7. In the past 12 months, has the Department seconded additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests? If so, please detail those resources by APS level.</p> <p>8. Please provide the number of officers who are currently designated decision makers under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 within the Minister’s office.</p> <p>9. Please provide the number of FOI requests currently under consideration by the Department. Please also provide the number of these requests that are currently overdue in response.</p> <p>10. Does the department consult or inform the Minister when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. How many times has this occurred in the past twelve months; 		
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					<p>and</p> <p>b. Please outline the process by which the Department consults the Minister.</p> <p>11. Has the Department consulted or informed another Department or agency about any FOI request in the past twelve months. If so, please provide the legal basis on which that consultation occurred (e.g. third party consultation, transfer of request).</p>		
63	SQ21-000454	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Briefings	<p>1. Has the Department/agency or the Minister's office provided briefings to independents/minor parties in the Senate or House of Representatives. If so, can the following be provided:</p> <p>a. The subject matter of the briefing.</p> <p>b. The location and date of the briefing.</p> <p>c. Who proposed the briefing.</p> <p>d. Attendees of the briefing by level/position</p>		Written
64	SQ21-000455	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Acting Minister arrangements	<p>1. Can the Department provide all leave periods of the portfolio Minister from 24 August 2018 to 30 May 2021.</p> <p>2. Can the Department further provide acting Minister arrangements for each leave period.</p>		Written
65	SQ21-000456	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental staff allowances	<p>1. Can a list of Departmental/agency allowances and reimbursements available to employees be provided.</p>		Written
66	SQ21-000457	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Kristina Keneally	Market research	<p>1. Does the Department/agency undertake any polling or market research in relation to government policies or proposed policies.</p> <p>2. If so, can the Department provide an itemised list of:</p> <p>a. Subject matter</p> <p>b. Company</p>		Written

		Development and Communications			<p>c. Costs each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>d. Contract date period</p> <p>3. Can the Department/agency advise what, if any, research was shared with the Minister or their office and the date and format in which this occurred.</p>		
67	SQ21-000458	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Advertising and information campaigns	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>2. What advertising and information campaigns did the Department/agency run in each relevant period. For each campaign, please provide:</p> <p>a. When approval was first sought.</p> <p>b. The date of approval, including whether the advertising went through the Independent Campaign Committee process.</p> <p>c. the timeline for each campaign, including any variation to the original proposed timeline.</p> <p>3. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in each period be provided.</p>		Written
68	SQ21-000459	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Promotional merchandise	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on promotional merchandise for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>2. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period please be provided.</p>		Written

					3. Can photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise please be provided.		
69	SQ21-000460	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Collateral materials	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on collateral materials, including banners, publications, maps, charts and high visibility or protective clothing for events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits, including Ministerial events, functions, conferences, meetings, press conferences and site visits for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>2. For each event or function where the Department/agency expended funds on collateral materials, provide details of the event, including the date and location of each event, and details of the types of materials.</p>		Written
70	SQ21-000461	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial overseas travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, please be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p>		Written

					<p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister’s travel should also be provided.</p>		
71	SQ21-000462	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Ministerial domestic travel	<p>1. Can an itemised list of the costs met by the department or agency for all domestic travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, please be provided including:</p> <p>a. Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, together with the airline and class of travel.</p> <p>b. Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials.</p> <p>c. Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed.</p> <p>d. Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister’s personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided.</p> <p>e. Any available photographs documenting the Minister’s travel should also be provided.</p>		Written

72	SQ21-000463	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Social media influencers	<p>1. What was the Department/agency's total expenditure on social media influencers for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>2. What advertising or information campaigns did the Department/agency use social media influencers to promote.</p> <p>3. Can a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts please be provided.</p> <p>4. Can an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts please be provided.</p>		Written
73	SQ21-000464	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental equipment	<p>What was the estimated value of all Departmental equipment that was lost, damaged, stolen or written off during each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p>		Written
74	SQ21-000466	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Commissioned Reports and Reviews	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, how many Reports or Reviews have been commissioned. Please provide details of each report including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Date commissioned. Date report handed to Government. Date of public release. Terms of Reference. Committee members and/or Reviewers. <p>2. How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost.</p> <p>3. The background and credentials of the Review personnel.</p> <p>4. The remuneration arrangements applicable to the Review</p>		Written

					<p>personnel, including fees, disbursements and travel</p> <p>5. The cost of any travel attached to the conduct of the Review.</p> <p>6. How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level.</p> <p>7. What is the current status of each report. When is the Government intending to respond to each report if it has not already done so.</p>		
75	SQ21-000467	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Board Appointments	<p>1. Provide an update of portfolio boards, including board title, terms of appointment, tenure of appointment and members.</p> <p>2. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio</p> <p>3. Please detail any board appointments made from 30 June 2020 to 31 May 2021.</p> <p>4. What has been the total value of all Board Director fees and disbursements paid.</p> <p>5. What is the value of all domestic travel by Board Directors.</p> <p>6. What is the value of all international travel by Board Directors.</p>		Written
76	SQ21-000468	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Appointments - briefs prepared	<p>1. How many times has the Department prepared a brief for statutory authorities, executive agencies, advisory boards, government business enterprises or any other Commonwealth body which includes a reference to a former Liberal or National member of parliament at a state, territory or federal level.</p> <p>2. For each brief prepared, can the Department advise:</p> <p>a. The former member.</p> <p>b. The board or entity.</p> <p>c. Whether the request originated from the Minister's office.</p> <p>d. Whether the appointment was made.</p>		Written
77	SQ21-000469	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Stationery	<p>1. How much has been spent on ministerial stationery requirements in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p>		Written

78	SQ21-000470	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Media monitoring	<p>1. What is the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to each Minister's office for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p> <p>2. What was the total cost of media monitoring services, including press clippings, electronic media transcripts etcetera, provided to the department/agency for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>a. Which agency or agencies provided these services.</p> <p>b. Can an itemised list of Austender Contract Notice numbers for any media monitoring contracts in each period please be provided</p> <p>c. What is the estimated budget to provide these services for the year FY 2020-21.</p>		Written
79	SQ21-000471	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Communications staff	<p>1. For all departments and agencies, please provide – in relation to all public relations, communications and media staff – the following:</p> <p>2. By Department or agency:</p> <p>a. How many ongoing staff, the classification, the type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>b. How many non-ongoing staff, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>c. How many contractors, their classification, type of work they undertake and their location.</p> <p>d. How many are graphic designers.</p> <p>e. How many are media managers.</p> <p>f. How many organise events.</p>		Written

					<p>3. Do any departments/agencies have independent media studios.</p> <p>a. If yes, why.</p> <p>b. When was it established.</p> <p>c. What is the set up cost.</p> <p>d. What is the ongoing cost.</p> <p>e. How many staff work there and what are their classifications.</p>		
80	SQ21-000472	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Departmental staff in Minister's office	<p>1. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of departmental staff seconded to ministerial offices, including:</p> <p>a. Duration of secondment.</p> <p>b. APS level.</p> <p>2. Can the Department provide an update on the total number of DLOs/CLOs for ministerial offices including APS level.</p>		Written
81	SQ21-000473	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	CDDA Payments	<p>1. How many claims have been received under the Compensation for Detriment caused by Defective Administration scheme (CDDA) by the Department for each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021?</p> <p>2. How many claims were:</p> <p>a. Accepted.</p> <p>b. Rejected.</p> <p>c. Under consideration.</p> <p>3. Of the accepted claims, can the Department provide:</p> <p>a. Details of the claim, subject to relevant privacy considerations</p> <p>b. The date payment was made</p> <p>c. The decision maker.</p>		Written
82	SQ21-000474	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Congestion busting	<p>1. Can the Department/agency advise how it is “congestion busting” in relation to bureaucratic bottlenecks and regulatory bottlenecks.</p> <p>2. Have any additional resources been allocated within the Department to achieve “congestion busting” within the department.</p>		Written
83	SQ21-000475	Department of Infrastructure,	Kristina Keneally	Recruitment	<p>1. What amount has been expended by the department/agency on external recruitment or executive search services in each of the</p>		Written

		Transport, Regional Development and Communications			<p>periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021?</p> <p>2. Which services were utilised. Can an itemised list be provided.</p>		
84	SQ21-000476	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Staffing	<p>1. How many full-time equivalent staff are engaged at each of 30 June 2019 and 30 June 2020, 31 May 2021?</p> <p>2. How many of these positions are (a) on-going and (b) non-ongoing.</p> <p>3. How many redundancies have occurred in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021. How many were:</p> <p>a. voluntary</p> <p>b. involuntary.</p> <p>4. How many of those redundancies occurred as a result of departmental restructuring. What is the total cost of those redundancies.</p> <p>5. What was the total value in dollar terms of all termination payments paid to exiting staff.</p> <p>6. How much overtime or equivalent has been paid to staff in each of the 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p> <p>7. How many section 37 notices under the Public Service Act 1999 have been offered in each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.</p>		Written
85	SQ21-000477	Department of Infrastructure,	Kristina Keneally	Comcare	<p>1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1</p>		Written

		Transport, Regional Development and Communications			January 2021-31 May 2021 can the Department advise whether it has been the subject of any investigations involving Comcare. If yes, please provide details of the circumstances and the status. 2. Can the Department advise the number of sanctions it has received from Comcare in the each of the periods; 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020 and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021.		
86	SQ21-000478	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Fair Work Commission	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Commission within the Department or agency.		Written
87	SQ21-000479	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Fair Work Ombudsman	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, how many references have been made to the Fair Work Ombudsman within the Department or agency.		Written
88	SQ21-000480	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, how many references have been made to the Office of the Merit Protection Commissioner within the Department or agency.		Written
89	SQ21-000481	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Public Interest Disclosures	1. For each of the periods 1 July 2019-31 December 2019; 1 January 2020-30 June 2020; 1 July 2020-31 December 2020, and 1 January 2021-31 May 2021, how many public interest disclosures have been received.		Written
90	SQ21-000482	Department of Infrastructure,	Kristina Keneally	Travel and expense claim policy	1 Please produce a copy of all travel and expense claim policies. 2 Please produce a copy of all claim forms. If the forms are digital,		Written

		Transport, Regional Development and Communications			please provide a screen shot of each section, including all dropdown options.		
91	SQ21-000483	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Declarations of interest	1 Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2 Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of interest as at 31 May 2021?		Written
92	SQ21-000484	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Kristina Keneally	Declarations of gifts and hospitality	1 Please produce a copy of all relevant policies. 2 Please produce a copy of the register of declarations of gifts as at 31 May 2021?		Written
93	SQ21-000502	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Sarah Hanson-Young	Streaming platforms and Australian content	1. When will the information gathered from streaming platforms regarding their Australian content levels be reported publicly? 2. Will any information be withheld from public reporting? If so, what information and why? 3. Which streaming platforms were asked to report?		Written
94	SQ21-000504	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Producer Offset	1. With the upcoming increase to the threshold for features wishing to access the 40% Producer Offset, from \$500K up to \$1m, has the Department looked at how many feature documentaries will be excluded from the Offset as a result of this change? If so, what did you find? 2. Why is the level of copyright expenditure that can be claimed towards qualifying expenditure under the Producer offset being capped at 30%? Has the Government considered the particular impact this will have on archival documentaries or music documentaries? 3. What impact will extending the 20% cap on Above the Line costs to non-feature documentaries have on producers' ability to derive		Written

				<p>sustainable income from projects?</p> <p>4. Is the Government considering retaining a modified Gallipoli clause to allow overseas expenditure on Australian crews to still be counted as qualifying expenditure for the Producer Offset?</p> <p>5. For each financial year below, how many films received the 40% Producer Offset?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 2019/20ii. 2018/19iii. 2017/18iv. 2016/17v. 2015/16 <p>6. For each financial year below, of all the feature films that received the 40% Producer Offset, how many were feature documentaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 2019/20ii. 2018/19iii. 2017/18iv. 2016/17v. 2015/16 <p>7. For each financial year below, of all the films that received the 20% Producer Offset, how many were documentaries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 2019/20ii. 2018/19iii. 2017/18iv. 2016/17v. 2015/16 <p>8. What was the total value of the Producer Offset received by documentary feature films in each of the financial year below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 2019/20ii. 2018/19iii. 2017/18iv. 2016/17v. 2015/16		
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95	SQ21-000512	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Boston Consulting Group	a) Please list all consultancy contract engagements the Department of Communications has had dating back to September 2013 with the Boston Consulting Group, including engagements entered into by the communications divisions since being consolidated into the Infrastructure Department. b) For each engagement list the financial value of the contract with the Boston Consulting Group.		Written
96	SQ21-000513	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - 2013 NBN strategic review - costs	a) What did the 2013 NBN strategic review cost? b) What payment was made to the Boston Consulting Group? c) What payments were made to other consulting firms? d) Which partners in the Boston Consulting Group were involved in the report?		Written
97	SQ21-000514	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Part 20A of the Telecommunications Act	a) What is the purpose of Part 20A of the Telecommunications Act? b) Is the expectation that developers themselves be responsible for cost of pit and pipe? c) How are the interests of taxpayers advanced when NBNCo has already secured a greenfield site, and the developer is prepared to pay for pit and pipe inside the development boundary at their own expense, but NBNCo then comes in and uses taxpayers money to build the pit and pipe at no cost to the developer? d) Why is this occurring? Has there been any recent change of policy that encourages NBNCo to use taxpayers money in this way? e) Is the scenario outlined in c) with aligned current Government policy? f) Does the Government consider the scenario outlined in c) a good use of taxpayer money? g) Is it accurate to say that under Commonwealth law, developers are generally required to provide fibre-ready pit and pipe in their developments at their expense? h) If yes, why is NBN now picking up this expense in circumstances where it clearly does not have to? i) Is NBNCo trying to force contracting companies to all go through their delivery partners?		Written

98	SQ21-000515	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - Boston Consulting Group Contract Variation	<p>Regarding the contract variation between the Commonwealth and the Boston Consulting Group for advice in relation to Australia:</p> <p>CN ID: CN3643146-A1</p> <p>Agency: Department of Finance</p> <p>Amendment Publish Date: 6-Aug-2020</p> <p>Category: Management advisory services</p> <p>Contract Period: 25-Oct-2019 to 30-Jun-2021</p> <p>Contract Value (AUD): \$1,909,620.00</p> <p>Amendment Value (AUD): \$589,620.00</p> <p>Amendment Start Date: 30-Jun-2020</p> <p>a) What was this \$589,620 variation for? Please provide the terms of reference in addition to a general description.</p> <p>b) Were other consulting firms able to bid for this \$589,620 body of work?</p> <p>c) When was the contract variation entered into?</p> <p>d) What was the contract duration?</p> <p>e) When was the final output for the work undertaken as part of the contract variation delivered?</p> <p>f) What was the output? Did it include a report or written product?</p> <p>g) To whom was the output supplied? Did the Department of Infrastructure and Communications receive it? Did Australia Post receive it?</p> <p>h) Why was Boston Consulting Group paid nearly \$600,000 to review the regulatory changes they advised the Morrison Government to adopt? Isn't this bad practice and doesn't it</p>		Written
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					<p>present a conflict of interest?</p> <p>i) How many pages was the report?</p> <p>j) Did the report or deliverable contain an executive summary?</p> <p>k) Did this report or a summary of it go to Cabinet?</p> <p>l) Is the report covered by any public interest immunity claim?</p> <p>m) Which partners at the Boston Consulting Group were involved in this?</p>		
99	SQ21-000516	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Mobile Black Spot Program - frustrated sites & sites not yet delivered	<p>1. Dating back to Round 1, how many frustrated sites have there been under the mobile black spot program? Please list each site, the carrier, and the electorate into attachment A. 2. Please list sites under Round 4 and Round 5 of the Mobile Black Spot Program which have not yet been delivered in accordance with attachment B.</p>		Written
100	SQ21-000518	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - Rollback of Australia Post Service Cuts	<p>a) On what date do the temporary regulations which cut Australia Post service standards expire?</p> <p>b) Has Australia Post begun rolling back to the existing regulations? If not, why not?</p> <p>c) Has the Minister for Communications been presented with a documented timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back?</p> <p>d) Has the Department been presented with a documented timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back?</p> <p>e) Has the Minister formally sought a timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back to the existing service level?</p> <p>f) Has the Department sought a timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back to the existing service level?</p> <p>g) Given the regulations expire on 30 June 2021, when does the Morrison Government expect to have fully rolled back to the original pre-COVID service standards?</p> <p>h) Given the regulations expire on 30 June 2021, when does the Morrison Government expect to have fully rolled reverted to 5 day delivery frequency, which it cut in half under the guise of COVID?</p> <p>i) Given the regulations expire on 30 June 2021, when does the</p>		Written

				<p>Morrison Government expect to have restored the priority mail service, which it cut?</p> <p>j) Will priority mail resume on 1 July 2021? If not, why not? Provide the operational and legal basis for this.</p> <p>k) Will 5 day delivery frequency resume on 1 July 2021? If not, why not? If not, why not? Provide the operational and legal basis for this.</p> <p>l) Will 3 day intrastate delivery timeframe resume on 1 July 2021? If not, why not? If not, why not? Provide the operational and legal basis for this.</p> <p>m) Regarding the questioning below: Senator GREEN: Mr Macdonald, is there any truth to this suggestion that you have made a similar comment to Australia Post management personnel, that a loophole has been discovered in those regulations and there's a sense that Australia Post could continue to operate with reduced service delivery under the original service regulations? Mr Macdonald: Let's see. Have I made a statement to management personnel that there might be a loophole that exists in the regulations? Senator GREEN: Yes. Mr Macdonald: No, I haven't. Senator GREEN: Something like that maybe? Mr Macdonald: I have been asked that question about whether the regulations are open to interpretation. Senator GREEN: Who asked you that question? Mr Macdonald: I can't remember. It came up in the course of a conversation about regulatory relief and my view was that there wasn't that sort of a loophole and, even if there were, it wouldn't be tenable to rely upon it.</p> <p>i. Did the Government or Department ask Mr Macdonald the question? Please search necessary email and text records to inform the response.</p>		
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					<p>ii. Do the comments of Mr Macdonald to the Senate represent the position of the Morrison Government?</p> <p>iii. Is the Minister for Communications willing to tolerate Australia Post being in breach of its regulations and performance standards?</p> <p>iv. What are the Minister's views on Government Business Enterprises not complying with Australian law?</p>		
101	SQ21-000557	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - 2013 NBN Strategic Review - Scenario 2 (Revenue)	a) Page 102 of the fabricated 2013 NBN Strategic Review claims that cumulative revenue (FY11-21) in Scenario 2, relative to Scenario 1, decreases by 1 billion, despite Scenario 2 being claimed a faster rollout as outlined in Exhibit 4-3. How can both claims be true? Were these figures fabricated?		Written
102	SQ21-000558	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - 2013 NBN Strategic review - Scenario 2 (Capex)	<p>b) Page 102 of the fabricated 2013 NBN Strategic Review claims that cumulative capital expenditure (FY11-24) in Scenario 2, relative to Scenario 1, has decreased by 12 billion as a result of deploying FTTP more efficiently.</p> <p>If cumulative capital expenditure decreased by \$12 billion, why has peak funding only then decreased by \$9 billion?</p> <p>Cumulative Capital Expenditure (FY11-24) Scenario 1: \$56b Cumulative Capital Expenditure (FY11-24) Scenario 2: \$44b Difference: \$12b</p> <p>Peak funding Scenario 1: \$73b Peak funding Scenario 2: \$64b Difference: \$9b</p>		Written
103	SQ21-000560	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - 2013 NBN strategic review - Scenario 2	a) What Cost per Premises for FTTP did Scenario 2 in the FTTP strategic review specifically assume?		Written

104	SQ21-000561	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Dept - 2013 NBN strategic review - Scenario 6	b) What cost per premises for FTTN did Scenario 6 assume? Please provide a page reference.		Written
105	SQ21-000517	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Regional Connectivity Program	For each funded project announced under the Regional Connectivity, can the Department provide an estimate, for each project, of the number of premises that will benefit from the upgrade. The funded projects being referred to can be found here: https://www.communications.gov.au/file/51957/download?token=dprZ8P-P		Written
106	SQ21-000563	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - John Sullivan follow up question	Senator ABETZ: ... I go to an area that I questioned last time, and that was the quite inappropriate payment of taxpayers' money through the ABC to one Mr John Sullivan for his footage of the US Capitol riot. Are you aware that the US authorities have now seized \$90,000 from this man who sold footage of the Capitol riot. Can you give us an assurance that the \$90,000 that was seized by US authorities—or part of that—was not, in fact, Australian taxpayer money? Mr Anderson: I can't give you that assurance, but, as I think I gave evidence last time, we did pay Mr Sullivan for footage that he had obtained during the Capitol riots. ... [p. 98] Senator ABETZ: Last estimates, on page 91 of the Hansard, I asked: If you can let us know who authorised the payment and who made the approach to Mr Sullivan and how all that was organised in some considerable— and the Hansard has the word 'decision' instead of 'precision'. I don't think I've got answers to that, so could I invite you to provide that to me—with considerable precision—on notice, please?	26/05/2021	76 & 98

107	SQ21-000600	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - ABC bonuses	<p>Senator ABETZ: I trust the person who made this decision to air this outrageous footage, from this very dubious character, was not the beneficiary of the \$55,000 bonus that the ABC paid to one of its staff. Can you confirm that for us?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Sorry?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Can you confirm that for us, that the person who allowed this to go to air was not the beneficiary of the bonus?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can confirm that for you.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Good. Can you then tell us not who the beneficiary of the bonus was but for what that bonus was paid?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, the—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: It's about 11, 12 or 13 Cartier watches that, I'm sure, your ABC reporters will be translating and telling the Australian people about.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can go to bonuses. We do pay bonuses like other agencies of the APS. Certainly year-on-year, the amount of bonuses that were awarded were lower, captured with—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: What was this one?</p> <p>CHAIR: Order!</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Sorry, this was a specific question, Chair. What was the bonus paid for? I don't need a history of bonuses and other departments doing the same thing and whatever else. I just want to know what this one \$55,000 bonus was paid for.</p> <p>CHAIR: You just need to raise a point of order, and I'll ask the witness to answer more directly.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We do have arrangements with some staff when it comes to performance, and this was to recognise outstanding performance that was certainly well above and beyond, and I'm satisfied that the bonus payment that was made was justified.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, but in what area was this outstanding performance?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: If I go to the area, then I'll reveal the context, and it will narrow it down as to who might have received that bonus,</p>	26/05/2021	77-78 & 98
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				<p>which I'm not prepared to do.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: The ABC is in the right-to-know coalition. That is great to see, isn't it!...</p> <p>[p. 98]</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Going back to the bonus of \$55,000: are you able to tell us whether that was paid for journalistic endeavour or for administrative skills? Without mentioning the person, are you able to tell us what the great endeavour was that was worthy of this huge bonus worth some 11, 12 or 13 Cartier watches?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The decisions we make with regard to this aren't taken lightly. It was certainly not for administrative endeavour.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Was it for journalistic endeavour? What was the endeavour that was deemed so worthy?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I do not wish to have speculation run rife, certainly in the media—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: That's why speculation is running—because you won't tell us.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. I think that to narrow that down would otherwise start to reveal a list of people that it could have been. Under our employment agreement, it is possible for highly-paid staff to receive bonuses. When it comes to bonuses across the ABC, (1) they're baked into our employment agreement—</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: If you're not going to tell us, don't wind down the clock, but please don't lecture us about the right to know.</p> <p>CHAIR: Mr Anderson, can I just point out, from the opening statement of Senate estimates, that the Senate has resolved that there are no areas in connection with the expenditure of public funds where any person has a discretion to withhold details or explanations from the parliament or its committees unless the parliament has expressly provided otherwise—that means a PII. If you want to make a PII on that, you need to make that claim. Otherwise, you need to provide the answer to Senator Abetz.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I wish to claim a PII on that, please.</p>		
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					CHAIR: You need to set out the grounds and the harm for that. Senator ABETZ: I look forward to the explanation that's provided on that.		
108	SQ21-000564	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Gaza Petition	Senator ABETZ: Have there been any directives by ABC management in relation to the coverage of the conflict? Mr Anderson: Yes. We have provided advice— Senator ABETZ: Is that written? Mr Anderson: I might defer to Mr McMurtrie. Senator ABETZ: If it's written, you can provide it to us on notice; that'd be very helpful. If it's not written, you can provide us with a written description of that which was provided verbally. Do you think it's appropriate for ABC editorial staff to be signing an open letter of this nature? Mr Anderson: These are people acting as individuals. Where I get concerned is: if it's an individual that has to report on the matter impartially, it's problematic. If it is a name on a petition they are exercising their own judgement for, I'd want to see that their reporting is impartial and accurate, as it should be.	26/05/2021	99
109	SQ21-000565	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Correspondance with the Greek Orthodox Church	Senator ABETZ: Have you received any correspondence in relation to His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, the Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia? Mr Anderson: Not that I can recall, no. Mr McMurtrie: It is ringing bells with me, but I don't have it in front of me. Senator ABETZ: Alright. I understand letters have been sent from lawyers. That's in relation to the report on St Basil's. This primate, as I understand it, is relatively new, and the condemnation of him driving around in a Holden Caprice, which is about seven or eight years old and was the car from the previous primate et cetera, seemed, to me at least, way over the top. If there are potential legal proceedings, I dare say I'd better tread cautiously on that, but could you take on notice for me whether or not there has been any correspondence with the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia	26/05/2021	104

					about what they believe to be gross misrepresentations of their church?...		
110	SQ21-000566	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Conflict of interest management in relation to the New Daily	<p>Senator BRAGG: Maybe I can help you a little bit. The principal activity appears to be to be around lobbying and marketing of super and industry super. The reason I'm asking you this is because one of your—is Mr Kohler an employee or a contractor?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Mr Kohler is a contractor of ours.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: He's a contractor? Okay. You may know that Mr Kohler is working for the ABC and also The New Daily, which is owned by Industry Super Holdings. Are you aware that he recently produced a four-part series for 7:30, I think it was?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes ...</p> <p>[p. 95]</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The New Daily, I'm sure, consider themselves a publisher of news and information. Yes, we have safeguards in place with regard to this. We have a conflict of interest policy, which we ask people to adhere to. Mr Kohler is aware of that, and we're managing it.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: Can you provide on notice exactly what you're going to do to manage this conflict of interest? I don't mind if it's you restating your exact policy, but I would like to see how that works in practice, because I think this is a unique situation that you seem to have been put into again after you unbundled yourself from the New Daily, so I'm interested in seeing how you are going to manage that.</p>	26/05/2021	94-95
111	SQ21-000567	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC - Resources expended on "Exposed: The Ghost Train Fire"	<p>Senator SHELDON: What time and resources went into the production of the program, and was there sufficient time and resources to get it right? Did we do proper checks? How many resources did go into the program and looking at this particular item?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I would need to come back to you with detail on that.</p>	26/05/2021	85

112	SQ21-000306	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Action in relation to comments made by ABC presenter	<p>Senator ABETZ: Mr Anderson, are you aware of the ugly, nasty, divisive and patently false assertion made by your ABC presenter this morning when he besmirched thousands of Tasmanians when he said 'I would have thought, if you're a white supremacist, you'd live in Kingston,' which is a suburb south of Hobart?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I've been made of that.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: What action has been taken or will be taken? Mr Anderson: I was only made aware of it late this afternoon. My understanding is that Mr Goddard realised he had made a mistake and apologised immediately. I've actually got your media release in front of me, but I will need to get the facts as they are, and I'll make my own inquiries.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Alright. If you can take that on notice. It is completely and utterly unacceptable against all standards, I would have thought. How on earth does this happen? An apology is one thing, but one would have thought anybody with an ounce of professionalism within themselves would not have made such an outrageous comment and slur on thousands of my fellow Tasmanians.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It certainly does seem to be an error, but we will look into it and I will get back to you on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	75-76
113	SQ21-000307	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - Reporting on Israel and Palestine conflict	<p>Senator ANTIC: Thank you, Mr Anderson, for coming today. I want to ask a couple of questions about the recent trouble and conflict in Israel and, in particular, the ABC's coverage of same. Perhaps, in order to frame my question, I want to point out an article that was published on the website on 13 May entitled 'An attempt to explain why explosions are again filling the skies over Israel and Gaza'. It's an article which I've had annotated in red for factual errors, and, as you can see, this document is a sea of red. There's not enough time today to pick through all of the factual errors, so I am going to highlight a couple.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Antic, are you going to table that if you're going to refer to it?</p>	26/05/2021	80

					<p>Senator ANTIC: No, I'm not, Chair. But I can perhaps table it later.</p> <p>CHAIR: Okay.</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: I am just going to refer to it in this case. This article is available on the website. It says, 'Like many places on Earth, the history of the region is complex and bloodied. It has been ruled by many different powers over the centuries, but Arab people have lived there throughout.' That's not actually correct, is it? In fact, what we know is that the history of the region shows—and this perhaps brushes away the ancient and unbroken historical connection to the land, to Israel, by the Jewish people. That's one example. As you flip through, I see another statement here: 'Most recently—and we're talking the past hundred years—the area now known as Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories was ruled by the Ottoman Empire.' We're not actually talking about the last hundred years. The Ottomans conquered the Holy Land in 1517. These are just examples, but they go on and on. My question to you is: why is it that the ABC is institutionally anti-Semitic and why is it that the ABC has continually misled its viewers in relation to the Jewish people's ancient connections to the land of Israel? Mr Anderson: I don't agree with the characterisation of the ABC being anti-Semitic. I will say that, when there are conflicts such as this, on very complicated matters, there are certainly things that we've looked into that have already been published to ensure that they're accurate. Some corrections have been made. If you provide me with that, I will certainly take that on notice and respond to you.</p>		
114	SQ21-000308	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Alexander Antic	ABC - Reporting on drag queens	<p>Senator ANTIC: Okay, happy to do that. My second line of questioning relates to a particular news story- this one is on the ABC news website on 13 May. It's an article entitled 'Meet Queensland's youngest drag queen- Candy Featherbottom- challenging perceptions at the local bowls club'. The article describes a 13-year-old boy who regularly performs as a drag queen at a Queensland bowls club which the article describes as a</p>	26/05/2021	81

					<p>'familyfriendly drag club', which is extraordinary to me. Does the ABC consider drag shows for children to be family friendly? Is that a new editorial position of the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We don't have an editorial position on that, but I'm not-</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Drag queens are not allowed-</p> <p>CHAIR: Order!</p> <p>Senator ANTIC: Sorry, I haven't spoken through your contribution, but I look forward to it.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Senator, again, I will provide you an answer on notice, but we certainly haven't issued any editorial directions with regard to that.</p>		
115	SQ21-000310	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - ABC Code of Conduct for employees personal social media accounts	<p>Senator BRAGG: I understand that, but the point I'm making is: if I'm an ABC journalist, and I self-identify as an ABC journalist on my public Twitter profile, and I'm covered by the code of conduct, then surely one of the remedies you may have to consider, as you roll out this code, is to take people off Twitter if they are engaging in conduct which is against the code of conduct.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: On a case-by-case basis, we would deal with any breach we thought might be a breach of the code of conduct. We would investigate that. There isn't an outcome here that is pulling someone off Twitter. That is their own personal choice, which I cannot enforce. We do put guidelines out.</p> <p>Senator BRAGG: That would be ridiculous-</p> <p>CHAIR: Order! Senator Bragg, please don't talk over the witness.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: What we do have is guidelines when it comes to the use of personal social media for work purposes. I can supply those guidelines to you on notice. It might help answer some of your questions with regard to when people are using their personal social media account and whether they should or should not be identifying themselves as working for the ABC.</p>	26/05/2021	86-87

116	SQ21-000311	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC - Assertion made in the program 'Ghost Train' on the ABC	<p>Senator SHELDON: There are some very important questions here that I want to ask regarding the matter on the ghost train. One assertion made in the program is that Wran had a social relationship with Abe Saffron. Do you agree with this assertion?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I don't agree or disagree with the assertion. Like you in that respect, I was a viewer of the program.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: What source was relied upon for this assertion? Quite clearly we've got that assertion being made, contrary to all the evidence that we've seen regarding Neville Wran and Abe Saffron. In actual fact, in the book Gentle Satan, which was written by Abe Saffron's son, who was aware of the inner workings of Abe Saffron, he did not make those allegations regarding the ghost train. Doesn't it seem that, again, there's a disconnect? We've political entities, people I would disagree with, but who are respected across the community. I don't agree with their politics, but I agree that they're respected. Then there are people across the business community, many of them respected within the community. We've got the son of someone who might be considered one of the most notorious criminal figures in the history of this country, certainly in the state of New South Wales, who says that Bob Askin was a friend. He also says that a police commissioner was among those who received thousands of dollars a week from Saffron. But there's no suggestion that Neville Wran was involved in this situation with the ghost train.</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I would need to take the question on notice and find out, specifically to your question, about on what basis was that assertion made. I would need to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: and whether there was sufficient time and resources to get it right and do proper checks. So you'll take it on notice as well.</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: Sure, though I'm bound to say that the team that worked on that program has impeccable journalistic credentials.</p>	26/05/2021	88
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					I'm saying that to give you the sort of detailed responses that you clearly want, I'll need to go away and put that material together.		
117	SQ21-000313	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - The presumption of innocence in ABC reporting	<p>Senator RENNICK: It happened again just recently with Mr Laming when he was interviewed by Patricia Karvelas. She asked him certain questions about allegations against him. Some of those allegations have been proven to be completely false. They are so false as to be ridiculous-allegations around upskirting, when the woman wasn't even wearing a skirt. Mr Laming said, 'I said to you prior to the interview that I can't talk about this because it's under legal stuff.' Ms Karvelas replied, 'Are you threatening me on national radio?' Don't you think that was a juvenile comment to make and, yet again, showed a lack of respect for the presumption of innocence? There seems to be a habit by ABC journalists of going after conservative politicians for the sake of it and not really respecting the presumption of innocence.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: On the broad statement at the end there, I don't believe that's the case. When it comes to that particular interview, I didn't see it. So I can't comment on that. If you provide me the details of when that was, I will take that on notice and respond to you on it.</p>	26/05/2021	91
118	SQ21-000315	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Nita Green	ABC - Treatment of ABC staff on the ground during protests	<p>Senator GREEN: The annual report in 2020 states that, 'To cover the year's biggest international political stories, ABC International established a pop-up bureau in Hong Kong.' It involved rotating teams from ABC Asia's bureau and Australia to provide nearly six months of ongoing coverage of the protests, and all of the things that were impacting Australians that were happening there.'</p> <p>Before we head off to other questions, can I quickly understand what the ABC learned from that experience: whether that was something that you are intending on doing again—having a pop-up bureau in a location for a temporary period where there's world events happening that need to be reported on—and how ABC staff were treated during the protests. I'm also seeking to understand the interaction of your staff with social media channels while that</p>	26/05/2021	94

					<p>was happening. It's a lot of questions, but I want to get through them.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It is. I'll provide answers to you on notice. What I will say is that, when we do have international events that are of significance, we will generally send reporters—foreign correspondents—and bolster our presence. We did that with the US elections and, as you say, with Hong Kong. Right now, in Gaza, we've got Nick Dole and a camera operator out of London to go and join Tom Joyner to bolster our presence there—to be able to expand our coverage, effectively. Of course, we're hampered at the moment with the pandemic and being able to locate people in other places, as well as being able to move them around. But I will provide a substantial answer to that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Okay. In particular, my question-in terms of taking this on notice-was about the treatment of ABC staff on the ground during the protests; if there were any incidents that you need to let us know about. Mr Anderson: We gave them all the support we could through our foreign desk-</p> <p>CHAIR: Take that on notice, please, Mr Anderson. That'd be great.</p>		
119	SQ21-000378	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Nita Green	ABC - ABC foreign bureaus in 2013	<p>Senator GREEN: How many foreign bureaus did the ABC have in 2013?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, I'll provide that to you on notice. I wasn't in the position I'm in now, so I wouldn't be able to do that without checking.</p>	26/05/2021	93-94
120	SQ21-000562	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Middle East coverage	<p>Senator ABETZ: Let's move to the actual reporting of the conflict. There's a Ms Zena Chamas. At first glance, her article appears impartial; she's gone to three Palestinians and three Jewish people commenting. One of the Jewish people is the Executive Council of Australian Jewry CEO, Alex Ryvchin, but the other two are Jewish but both publicly reject the expression of Israel as the Jewish homeland. So it's hardly a balance of three Palestinians, three Jewish; it's in fact three Palestinians, one Jewish person who supports the Israel side and two others of Jewish ethnicity who are</p>	26/05/2021	99-100

				<p>opposed to the claim of Israel being the Jewish homeland. So it's really five against one. How do we claim that that is somehow providing balance?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll defer to Mr McMurtrie, because I think he's looked at the story.</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I have. As I'm sure you know, it's an extremely complex issue and there isn't one Jewish view, just as there isn't necessarily one Palestinian view.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: How many various Palestinian views were therefore provided, and how many Palestinian views were provided condemning the Palestinian action? We know the answer, don't we? Zero. So my point remains, does it not?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: It's one story in hundreds of stories that have been filed on this issue.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And was there balance in that story, when you have five against one?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: We don't start from a proposition that says that, on any issue, there must be perfect balance. The importance is that we get the balance of perspectives right over time. You can't include every facet on every story and every source. It's just not feasible.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: But it is in every story that emanates in relation to Israel. Let's get to ABC Middle East correspondent Tom Joyner. He told us via tweet that he would stop using the word 'clashes' because of concerns by pro-Palestinian activists that the word 'clashes' implies conflict between two parties and removes agency, allowing blame to implicitly be spread evenly amongst those involved. Mr Joyner, to explain his decision, said, 'Israel have been the instigators of virtually all the violence during recent weeks.' Mr Joyner seems to studiously avoid reporting Hamas political bureau member, Fathi Hammad, a former interior minister, who was filmed last week shouting at a rally, 'People of Jerusalem, we want you to cut off the heads of the Jews with knives.' Hamad even</p>		
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					<p>pointed at his throat to show just where to stab and said 'cut their artery from here. A knife costs five shekels. Buy a knife, sharpen it, put it there, and just cut off their heads'. He also said the Jews have spread 'corruption' and have acted 'with arrogance' and their moment of reckoning has come. We don't seem to be able in our balanced reporting from the Middle East to report these facts. Why not?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: I'm not familiar with the detail that you just read out. I would need to look at it. I will come back to you.</p>		
121	SQ21-000316	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - ABC support for literacy in Australia	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you please give me an outline of what the ABC is currently doing to support media literacy here in Australia?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We held a summit-from memory; I will confirm this on notice for you. We did something a couple of years back around media literacy. Certainly ABC Education is on our website and is available for educators, parents and carers with regard to aligning our content to the school curriculum. A component of that is media literacy, and, as I said, that is available to educators. We do do that. That is just an initial answer, but I can confirm more-</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Have you got any official or informal partnerships in that regard? The curriculum one is a partnership with whom?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We have had a couple of partnerships. During the pandemic we had partnerships with the state department of education and I think we've had federal department of education-I know we certainly partner with them from time to time, depending on what it is that we are doing. I can certainly confirm that with you on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	96
122	SQ21-000317	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Misinformation initiatives	<p>Senator PRATT: Do you align your work in those media literacy initiatives with any misinformation initiatives that we have had some discussion of within department of communications today?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I am not sure of the discussions you have had with the department of communications today. But, again, I am happy to respond on notice for you.</p>	26/05/2021	96

123	SQ21-000318	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC - Media being considered Australian curriculum	<p>Senator PRATT: So media is a reasonably popular subject at high school in the context of both studying English literature but also looking at media content, and media literacy is an important component of that. Has that been included in a scheduled review of the Australian curriculum that is currently underway?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: As I said, in the last update I got, over 4,000 assets were otherwise mapped to the school curriculum. I've just been advised that our head of education has recently taken over as chair of the Australian Media Literacy Alliance. I think that certainly the information that we have on our website with regard to that will answer a lot of your questions. I will, of course, answer that on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	97
124	SQ21-000319	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Nita Green	ABC- Outsourcing broadcast vehicles and consultation	<p>Senator GREEN: I just want to ask about some decisions that are happening in relation to outside broadcast van vehicles. The ABC, I understand, has invited an external supplier to tender to the future provision of outside broadcast vehicles. Why is ABC tendering potential future provisions? Has it got something to do with budget cuts or efficiencies? ...</p> <p>Senator GREEN: What are you going to save by doing this? You said it's about priorities, but priorities is about how much money you've got to spend.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That's right, so we've already not been actively investing in the OB vans as they stand. We hire some equipment for it. I think we save—I'm going to use a conservative figure, but I can confirm it to you on notice—some \$15 million in capital by not replacing those trucks. That will be diverted to things—we talked earlier about cyber. It'll be product personalisation. There are things that we need to invest in in the future and deinvest in other things that we can go to market for.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Maybe you will need to take this on notice: could you also let us know if staff and unions are being consulted through those plans? Is there a consultation requirement under the EBA in any event about changes?</p>	26/05/2021	100-101

					Mr Anderson: There certainly will be if those small number of jobs that are dedicated that might be affected-yes, we will consult on that.		
125	SQ21-000320	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	ABC - Security assessment criteria for Tealium	<p>Senator McKENZIE: But, as of July, my understanding is that you will be sharing this with Tealium: From July 2021, if you are a registered ABC Account holder, we may disclose a hashed version of your email address to Google and Facebook, via a technology service provider called Tealium, to show you promotions for ABC content . Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That is correct, unless you opt out. ...</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: What's the security rating for this entity?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: If we're entering into partnership with anybody who's helping us with data, we ask them to apply the same standards that we apply to ourselves on data protection in the contracting of this.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: So they're rated as a level 4 too? Mr Anderson: You're referring to the maturity level I mentioned before, which is with regard to cyberattack. Yes, the answer is we require them to have the same level that we have.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: How do you assess that?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We seek it through binding contractual obligation. I can give you an answer on notice-</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: That'd be great.</p>	26/05/2021	102
126	SQ21-000321	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	ABC - Tealium connections with China or Huawei	<p>Senator McKENZIE: What background or connections does Tealium have with China or Huawei?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I do not know, Senator.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Could you, on notice, check that out?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p>	26/05/2021	103
127	SQ21-000322	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	ABC - Survey on iView users	<p>Senator McKENZIE: You've conducted a survey that found 95 per cent of ABC iView users were interested in a more personal service.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Who conducted that survey?</p>	26/05/2021	103

					<p>Mr Anderson: I don't have that here at the moment. I think it was us.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: So can you table the survey and results?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Sure, yes. To be specific, Senator, 95 per cent were interested in at least one personalisation feature and program watch list and program recommendations, and 74 per cent agreed that they were likely to create an ABC iView account.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: How many iView users were surveyed?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It was in 2020. I don't know, Senator. I will provide that answer to you on notice.</p>		
128	SQ21-000323	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Middle East coverage	<p>Senator ABETZ: I will continue on with my questioning about Middle East coverage. On ABC TV 7 pm news on 19 May, Mr Joyner reported accurately that Israel had permitted a convoy of humanitarian goods to travel through one of the border crossings. He also accurately reported that most of the convoy failed to enter Gaza after shells were fired. But the story fails to tell us that the shells that stopped the convoy from getting through to Gaza were actually coming from Gaza. Why was there that fundamental omission in that story? The impression would have been that Israel may have been trying to stop the convoy getting through.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't tell you, Senator. We can take that on board as a complaint. I'm not familiar with the story itself.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Alright. Take it on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	103-104
129	SQ21-000324	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Disclosure of Mr Raby's position under the foreign Influence Transparency Scheme	<p>Senator ABETZ: and take this on notice-how often Mr Raby has been interviewed and how often the ABC has disclosed that he's registered under the Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme as an agent of influence of a Chinese state owned enterprise? I would have thought it fairly fundamental for listeners or viewers to know that here we have an operative and yet he's being presented to the public as some sort of expert. Can you explain to us why that has not happened? Chances are, more importantly, will you start doing it in the future? Mr Anderson: We'll take it on notice. I'll take a look at that.</p>	26/05/2021	104

130	SQ21-000363	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - ABC Corporate	1. The ABC pays its executive staff on salaries of \$370,000 and above bonuses. These bonuses range from \$1333 to \$18,133. Can you advise how those bonuses are awarded and for what aspects of the performance they are awarded? Is it for example they are rewarded for simply managing a Budget? Do any of those bonuses relate to savings or revenue generation?		Written
131	SQ21-000364	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - News and Current Affairs	1. On April 1, 2021 the Australian newspaper reported that the ABC's Audience and Consumer Affairs Unit had found a story reporting on the "10th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster" on March 11 wrongly claimed the main cause of death was due to a nuclear disaster. In fact the ABC story said the "deadly Fukushima nuclear disaster" when in fact of the estimated 18,500 people who died almost all either drowned when the tsunami hit or were killed by an earthquake. Only one person, and in recent years that has been contested, is said to have died from radiation. How does the ABC stop this type of bias occurring? What is the policy approach that the ABC has to stop this type of bias occurring? Can the ABC explain how, with all the fact checking and editing that goes on behind the scenes, an article was allowed to be published that described the 2011 Fukushima disaster as a "deadly nuclear disaster", when in fact no deaths were caused by the nuclear reactor meltdown? 2. Is the ABC aware of a growing trend of people coming out to speak out against Caro Meldrum-Hanna regarding the way she conducts her journalism? The following Four Corner and 7.30 Report stories Ms Meldrum-Hanna has been involved have all had concerns raised by Independent people about the way the story was put together including: Juvenile Detention in the NT - which lead to a Royal Commission; Luna Ghost Train; Tassie Salmon Farming; and Horse racing Scandal aired on the 7.30 Report. Does the ABC believe that fitting stories into a predetermined view is dangerous journalism and extremely biased? Has the ABC undertaken any discussions with Ms Meldrum-Hanna about the issues raised from the stories? Has		Written

					there been an investigation into any trend with complaints relating to Ms Meldrum-Hanna's approach to reporting and journalism?		
132	SQ21-000365	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Samantha McMahon	ABC - The Luna Ghost Train	1. Has the ABC handed over all information it uncovered regarding the Luna Park Ghost Train Fire to the appropriate body? Such as the unedited visions of the interviews? 2. If they haven't can the ABC explain why they have failed to hand over critical information regarding the 1979 Luna park ghost train fire, after claims that new evidence has been uncovered about its cause? 3. Will the ABC openly state they are committed to working closely with the police and the Coroner with regards to any cold case that is reopened through any of their investigations?		Written
133	SQ21-000366	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Social media	1. When journalists are tweeting about their ABC work, what is the legal line between the programme and the social media content ? When are staff on their own ? What is a personal view? 2. Is there a difference between on air and off air staff ? 3. Can you please provide an update on the individual case of Sebastien Maury? 4. Is the Code of conduct going to be built into ABC's enterprise agreements?		Written
134	SQ21-000367	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Legal review	a. Why did you get external legal advice for the November programme but not for stories in February? b. Were you satisfied that all the relevant information was provided to ABC legal in February ? You told me in March that "it would invariably depend what was put to the legal department" c. Was the lawyer Sebastian Maury involved in legal signoff for the February article ? d. Now back to the evidence on 9 November 2020 - you said you retain information - are you confident that this has happened ?		Written
135	SQ21-000368	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Andrew Bragg	ABC - Mr Alan Kohler	a. Are you aware of the ownership of New Daily ? b. Are you aware of industry super holdings' principal activities? c. Are you aware that Mr Kohler is contracted to the ND/ISH lobbyists? d. Did you know that Mr Kohler works for a lobbyist organisation -		Written

					<p>where he has retweeted calls for 15% from Bruce Hawker - how do you justify this?</p> <p>e. Is this something that could apply elsewhere? Could you have someone working for a vaping company produce a story on vaping ?</p> <p>f. Is this an unmanageable conflict of interest?</p> <p>g. What are you doing to manage this conflict of interest ?</p> <p>h. Will Mr Kohler be allowed to keep working for the ABC on superannuation stories?</p>		
136	SQ21-000369	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Rape allegations	1. Why does the ABC believe the circumstances around the rape allegations dating back to the late 80's against Bill Shorten and Christian Porter differ? Both men, regardless of process and circumstances are entitled to the presumption of innocence are they not?		Written
137	SQ21-000370	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Civil liberties	1. I note the comments of managing director David Anderson in Senate estimates where he said ABC employees don't leave their civil liberties at the door. Why hasn't the ABC respected the civil liberties of Christian Porter in regards to presumption of innocence by engaging in a media pile on that has irrevocably damaged his reputation and caused a great deal of emotional distress based on allegations that can never be tested in court?		Written
138	SQ21-000371	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Change in social attitudes towards rape	1. Why does the ABC believe there has been a change in social attitudes towards rape since 2014? Rape was a criminal offence then as it is now. Is this attitude more a reflection of the inherent bias amongst ABC staff against conservative white male politicians?		Written
139	SQ21-000372	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Gerard Rennick	ABC - Andrew Laming	1. On the 29th April Karvelas conducted an interview with Andrew Laming and asked questions about circumstances subject to legal proceedings. She was given prior notice by Andrew Laming that the circumstances were subject to legal proceedings. When raised by Andrew Laming that these issues were subject to Legal proceedings. Karvelas then replied with the extremely juvenile response "are you threatening me?" Why is the ABC trying to		Written

					pervert the course of justice by interfering in court matters and why should Karvelas keep her job given her lack of respect towards the judicial system, the presumption of innocence and disregard for politicians' civil liberties?		
140	SQ21-000309	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC - 5.3 Fair and Honest dealing - ABC editorial policies	<p>Senator SHELDON: Does making those allegations in the first place, where there was not somebody there able to refute them, demonstrate balance?</p> <p>Mr McMurtrie: In a documentary series of this sort, the question is whether there is undue attention to one perspective or one viewpoint. It was an investigation. The point of the program was communicated really clearly to the audience. The audience is very familiar with this true crime genre—the cold case genre, I suppose—so the audience expectations would have been pretty clear. Again, I keep coming back to this: we would need to take a deeper dive into what the program knew or didn't know about this particular allegation, but it certainly is not the case that Exposed was making the allegation. In effect, what the documentary series and the program makers were doing was bringing to the audience matters that had previously been before the parliamentary commission of inquiry, the Stewart commission. They had gone to extraordinary lengths to find first-person witnesses who were still available to present what they knew, and that has now led, as you know, to the police matters and to the coroner taking a look at it, and all this material will be examined.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I just draw you to 5.3 in Fair and honest dealing of the ABC editorial policies, which you're aware of, which says: Where allegations are made about a person or organisation, make reasonable efforts in the circumstances to provide a fair opportunity to respond. These are quite serious allegations that are being made. In actual fact, they probably can't get more serious. Mr McMurtrie: For me to answer that question in a detailed way, I'd need to take that on notice</p>	26/05/2021	85

141	SQ21-000312	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Nita Green	ABC - Cyber security incidents over a two year period in the ABC	<p>Senator GREEN: Has the ABC actually experienced a cybersecurity incident in the last two years that's required you to seek assistance from the Australian Cyber Security Centre or notify them of an incident?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to get back to you on notice. Going back two years, I don't think so; nothing notable. We've had our own, when things go wrong, but I don't think we've had-I have to get back to you on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	88
142	SQ21-000314	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Nita Green	ABC - Department's foreign bureaus	<p>Senator GREEN: Can I also ask about foreign bureaus, Mr Anderson? How many foreign bureaus do you have at the moment?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: For some of them, we don't have correspondents in because of the pandemic. I'll confirm on notice for you, but I believe we have 11 foreign bureaus at the moment. I will confirm that on notice to you.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: On notice, could you provide a list of where they're at at the moment, as well?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Sure.</p>	26/05/2021	93
143	SQ21-000487	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Serious misconduct - right to terminate	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Just to be very clear, is there a provision with employee conduct that if the ABC is brought into disrepute or if they're guilty of serious misconduct they can be immediately terminated?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It would be in an extreme circumstance, where we would look to suspend someone pending an investigation. But I didn't see any need to suspend.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: No, I didn't ask that question. Is there a clause in senior employees' contracts, as there used to be when I worked at the ABC, which gives the ABC a right to terminate if someone has engaged in serious misconduct?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think people have a right to procedural fairness. I can give you an answer on notice with regard to what would constitute gross misconduct and what the options are to terminate immediately, but I believe we have to abide by procedural fairness.</p>	7/06/2021	16

					Senator HENDERSON: Could you take that on notice, including whether you have those particular clauses in the contracts of senior employees. It would be very unusual that the ABC didn't. And also the particular law you're relying on which gave rise to giving Mr Maury the opportunity to effectively resign? Could you take those questions on notice.		
144	SQ21-000488	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC legal - subsequent conversations following on from social media misconduct	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Did anyone at ABC legal provide any advice or clearance in relation to any of the tweets on personal employee social media accounts? Mr Anderson: Ahead of them posting something on their social media account?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Or subsequently? Did ABC legal provide any advice to Ms Milligan, Ms Neighbour or any other Four Corners ABC employee in relation to what was posted on their personal media accounts?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: In the last week? Do you mean with regard to the settlement with Mr Porter?</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: Yes, and more broadly.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: To answer your question broadly, no, I don't think there was broad direction given to Four Corners staff with regard to that. I think that certainly, as I said earlier, the conversations happened after the statement was released with regard to social media activity with regard to the settlement. What happened in that conversation, I don't know.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: When you say 'conversation', this is a conversation with legal or ABC lawyers or external lawyers-</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think advice was given by ABC legal to Mr Morris to pass on to some of our Four Corners staff with regard to the settlement itself, but I will confirm that for you on notice.</p>	7/06/2021	17
145	SQ21-000489	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Ms Neighbour's tweets	Senator SMALL: That's the sort of transparency I think we deserve for the Australian people. I will just return, if I can, to the matter of Ms Neighbour's tweets. If you look at her history of likes on Twitter, they include, on 1 June, liking a tweet by The Chaser that the ABC suffers 'humiliating big f'ing win over Porter', liking a	7/06/2021	24

					<p>meme from Blackadder showing Christian Porter with no arms and legs, as the character that spurts blood everywhere, liking a post that says, 'I try and sue the ABC but instead my pants fall down and I try to waddle away, but accidentally waddle over a balcony and land headfirst into a truck of pig manure and my legs wriggle around and everyone sees my heart patterned boxer shorts.' She goes on to like a post that states that in an 'age of egregious misinformation this is right up there, and in a national broadsheet that is an embarrassing shadow of its former self. The ABC didn't settle with Porter. He dropped the case. This tagline implies the ABC met Porter halfway. It didn't. He surrendered.' She went on to like a post that says, 'I shouldn't be shocked at the gall. Let's not forget Christian Porter filed his defamation suit against Louise Milligan the hour before national #March4Justice rallies, but this being wildly misleading about facts today reveals gobsmacking entitlement' and so on ad nauseam. Has this come to your attention?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, it hasn't, but I will look at that. The matter did settle with no admission of liability, and just for some of the things that you mentioned there. But I will have a look at that. I will take that on notice.</p>		
146	SQ21-000490	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Leigh Sales - Twitter 'like' button	<p>Senator SMALL: Thank you very much. While we're on that particular issue, high-profile current affairs presenter Leigh Sales recently tweeted she uses the 'like' button on Twitter to save things she doesn't have time to read, 'not because I like or agree with them'. Given that tweets are limited to 160-odd characters and these are highly experienced professional journalists, do you accept that that is in compliance with the ABC's Personal Use of Social Media policy and the guidelines that you've mentioned accordingly, for what has the appearance to the average person of an endorsement of the content?</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Kind of like when Mr Hunt accidentally tweeted a porn site-liked it.</p>	7/06/2021	24-25

					<p>CHAIR: Order!</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take that on notice and respond to you. I'm not aware of Ms Sales's characterisation of the use of the 'like' button on Twitter, but I'll get back to you on notice.</p>		
147	SQ21-000491	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Eric Abetz	ABC - Defamation cases - payments	<p>Senator ABETZ: Has the ABC been involved in many defamation cases where payments have been made?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to get back to you on notice. There aren't too many that I'm aware of, but I would have to check and get back to you to give a better answer.</p>	7/06/2021	25
148	SQ21-000492	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Jenny McAllister	ABC - Interactions with PM for the program: 'The Great Awakening: a family divided by QAnon'	<p>Senator McALLISTER: On what date did the ABC first communicate with the Prime Minister or his office about the subject matter of the program?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know on what first date. I know certainly that the Prime Minister and the PMO have been approached. Mind you, I'll provide that to you on notice. But, yes, we would normally give opportunity, in a program like this, to respond.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Did the ABC seek an on-camera interview with the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't tell you that.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: In taking that on notice—and I assume you are taking that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: You can tell me; you just can't right now?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, it is unusual to be talking about—I experienced this in November last year—a program that is yet to air.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Normally we would publish and then we would go through what we go through. But on notice I will confirm what I can to you, yes.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Thank you. You may take this on notice also. I'd like to know whether or not an on-camera interview was sought, on what date it was sought, or if there were multiple dates</p>	7/06/2021	27-28

					<p>on which contact was made. I'd also like to know the Prime Minister's response to that request. I'd like to know-</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Or his office.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Or his office's response. I'd like to know if the Prime Minister or his office gave an indication to the ABC about his willingness or otherwise to participate in an interview.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will provide you a response on notice. ...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Did the ABC provide any written questions to the Prime Minister or his office about the subject matter of the program?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I believe that has happened.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: On what date?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know. I'd have to confirm with you on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Did the Prime Minister or his office respond to those questions?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to confirm on notice. ...</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Did the ABC seek an on-camera interview with the person with links to QAnon?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll confirm that to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Could you also confirm on which date and what that person's response was to this request and whether or not that person agreed to participate in an interview?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p>		
149	SQ21-000493	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Jenny McAllister	ABC - Contact with Mr Morris in relation to the program: 'The Great Awakening: a family divided by QAnon'	<p>Senator McALLISTER: The Nine papers have reported that the decision to defer publication of the story was made days after Mr Morris received a call from the Prime Minister's office. Is that true?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes, I believe that Mr Morris did have contact with the Prime Minister's office and I think it was in direct relation to the questions that had been put in writing. The nature of those questions I cannot advise of or the call, other than that I believe that happened.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: When was that call made?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to confirm that on notice.</p>	7/06/2021	28

					<p>Senator McALLISTER: Did the Prime Minister or any staff member from his office contact Mr Morris or anyone else at the ABC requesting that the program not be aired?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will say, no, but I'll confirm that with you on notice.</p>		
150	SQ21-000496	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Social media policy	<p>Senator HENDERSON: Mr Anderson, on 31 May, Louise Adler tweeted a post which was liked by Sally Neighbour. Senator Small has raised these concerns, obviously, as has Senator Paterson. It's a doctored photograph of Mr Porter with comments, 'I have humiliated the ABC by dropping my lawsuit in exchange for compensation of zero dollars.' This was a tweet 'liked' by the executive producer of Four Corners. Is that a breach of your social media policy?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll have to take a look at it. I'm not aware of that. But I will have a look at it and respond to you on notice.</p> <p>Senator HENDERSON: If the executive producer of Four Corners has 'liked' a post, any post, which is denigrating or which comments on the settlement, as a general proposition is that in breach of your social media policy?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll take a look at it and give you a response on notice. I wouldn't look at just one instance, I'd look at every instance that has been provided to me. I will have a look.</p>	7/06/2021	31-32
151	SQ21-000497	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Social media - degrading politicians	<p>Senator HENDERSON: If you believe that to be the case, that ABC journalists should not be posting matters denigrating of politicians, why are you continuing to allow this conduct to occur?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take a look. We issued this in February. We issued the guidelines in March. There are a lot of conversations happening across the ABC. We are tackling this issue. We've issued letters of misconduct, and sought a serious misconduct on one occasion. It is something that we are looking at and actively dealing with. I would suggest, to your earlier point, rather than pick out certain topics across-the-board, particularly if anyone does anything on social media that affects the effectiveness of their job that's a problem.</p>	7/06/2021	32

					<p>Senator HENDERSON: Isn't it a problem when you allow this to continue, because it exposes journalists, surely? They don't have sufficient guidelines?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take it on notice and get back to you.</p>		
152	SQ21-000498	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Henderson	ABC - Process of termination following serious misconduct	<p>Senator HENDERSON: How long did that process of termination take? Given the serious nature of his misconduct, why didn't the ABC summarily dismiss the employee, which of course is open to you to do under your enterprise agreement?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: My advice was internally, by an employment lawyer, that we needed to afford the individual procedural fairness, which we did; that what was deemed to be serious misconduct was not as serious as would warrant an immediate termination. So, we went through the process. I cannot tell you right now how long that took. However, what I will say is I will provide that confirmation for you on notice with how long that process took before the resignation.</p>	7/06/2021	33
153	SQ21-000499	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Mr Porter's legal costs - barristers	<p>Senator SMALL: If I can return to the ABC's costs in the matter with Mr Porter-how many barristers have been engaged in relation to that matter both formally on record but also working on the case behind the scenes, so to speak?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: If it's useful, I can provide that to you on notice both for who has worked on it for the internal team as well as who we have hired externally with regard to senior counsel.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: That would be brilliant. If those names and levels could be provided that would be great</p>	7/06/2021	34
154	SQ21-000500	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	ABC - Staffing	<p>Senator SMALL: I'm conscious of time so I am whipping through quite quickly. On the matter of staffing, has the ABC's headcount increased from 2020 to 2021?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I will take that on notice. I don't have the information right before me and nor do I have my CFO next to me. But I don't believe it's increased. I don't believe so.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: If you could come back on notice on that one, that would be great. Finally, on staffing, in the five-year plan for the ABC</p>	7/06/2021	34

					<p>there's a goal of 75 per cent of content makers being outside the Ultimo headquarters by 2025. Is that still the intention of the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: That is still the intention, yes.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Brilliant. Do you have any workforce analysis in relation to where staff currently live by postcode?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: It's not exhaustive and it is I think confidential to the people, but we have some analysis of this. I will go back to the five-year plan. We are one year into a five-year plan to make sure that we can achieve that. Are you connecting those two things? Are those two questions related, to have 75 per cent of our content makers located outside of Ultimo as well as where they live now?</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Yes, in part I think it's useful to understand, because it's not just where these content makers work but also where they live to give a picture of a broadcaster that reflects the nation more holistically. In an anonymised way, that would be helpful, I think, to understand on notice.</p>		
155	SQ21-000345	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Bridget McKenzie	ACMA - Complaints received against the ABC over a 3 year period	<p>Senator McKENZIE: How many complaints over the past three years has the ACMA received about the ABC?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: To clarify: we might have to take on notice overall complaints about the ABC. ...</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: In the 2020 calendar year we received just over 60 complaints and inquiries about bias or a lack of impartiality in ABC content. I should add that that number includes broadcasts that generated multiple complaints. We might receive five or six complaints about one program in there. In the period from 1 January this year to 31 March-so the first quarter of 2021-we received nine complaints or inquiries about the same topic of bias or lack of impartiality.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: On notice, can I have that breakdown broader than the impartiality piece about the ABC? Are each of these 60 going to result in an investigation?</p>	27/05/2021	94
156	SQ21-000346	Australian Communications	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Materials for members of	<p>Senator URQUHART: Has the ACMA produced materials for members of parliament to communicate with their constituents</p>	27/05/2021	96

		and Media Authority		parliament to communicate with their constituents about misinformation	about misinformation? Ms O'Loughlin: No, we haven't to date. Senator URQUHART: Why haven't you done that? Ms O'Loughlin: I can take that on notice to consider.		
157	SQ21-000347	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - Social media in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic	<p>Senator URQUHART: Has the ACMA provided any advice to the Minister for Foreign Affairs or her department on the issue of social media in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic? ...</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Certainly I'm aware of staff who have been in contact with colleagues at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade—</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So staff from ACMA?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Yes, staff who work in my division, largely, as I understand it, to keep them updated on where our work has been going overseeing the development of the code and our report.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: And I think it is being approached in a whole-of-government way. There are many of us working on different parts of this puzzle, but we are coordinating as strongly as we can with other departments and agencies involved.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Has any of that information or advice been in relation to disinformation or vaccine scepticism?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I'd have to take on notice the specifics of those communications.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could, that would be helpful.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: Of course.</p>	27/05/2021	98
158	SQ21-000348	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - COVID-19 vaccine immunisation reporting statistics	<p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. Without commenting on the specific posts by Craig Kelly, is the ACMA prepared to agree that COVID misinformation, in the context of a pandemic, could constitute an acute potential harm of the kind that platforms should reduce?</p> <p>Ms Chapman: That is a matter for each platform to decide, under their terms and conditions and their codes. Certainly the definition that they have placed into the code that they have now signed up to—a number of platforms have signed up to it—indicates that they</p>	27/05/2021	99

					<p>will take action in relation to material that they see has imminent harm. There may well be cases where platforms decide that information in relation to COVID vaccine immunisation meets that threshold, and I think we've seen that they have been examples where they have seen that threshold being met. But that is part of their processes.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Senator, we do have some statistics on that from their recent report which might be helpful for you, about what the platforms are doing under their code.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Okay. If you could provide that on notice,</p>		
159	SQ21-000349	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Anne Urquhart	ACMA - DFAT disinformation task force	<p>Senator URQUHART: Thank you. You mentioned before that you had had some discussions with DFAT. Is ACMA working with the DFAT disinformation task force?</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I'd have to take on notice the specifics of that, but we're working with DFAT, as we're working with the Department of Home Affairs. Our own department has a role in this. There are a number of areas.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: But there is a task force that DFAT has, so I'd be interested.</p> <p>Ms Rainsford: I'll take that on notice.</p>	27/05/2021	99
160	SQ21-000350	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Rex Patrick	ACMA - Regional and small publishers innovation fund	<p>Senator PATRICK: I just want to ask a couple of questions about the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund. We did look at this last time and you did provide some answers-thank you very much-but I realised I didn't ask all the right questions that I needed to. You've set out how many applications have been successful-this was in question No. 141-and broken that down for South Australia. How many people applied and were not successful? I just want to get a feel for the number of people who were unsuccessful in these applications. So, of the 129 projects funded-</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I think we might have to take that on notice for you again. I apologise.</p> <p>Senator PATRICK: Yes. The program has, in some sense, passed by.</p>	27/05/2021	100

					There are still some open, but- Ms Rainsford: We can take the specifics of that on notice		
161	SQ21-000352	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Louise Pratt	ACMA - Arbitrators register for news media bargaining code	Senator PRATT: I know you have registered news businesses, but they have come about without arbitration. Is it possible that arbitrators will never be called on in the event that no digital platform is designated? Ms Rainsford: That's possible. Ms Chapman: We should also add: there is also a responsibility to appoint mediators. So there are mediators and arbitrators under the code, but in both cases they will be put on a register regardless of whether there is or isn't a designation of a platform. Senator PRATT: If you can take on notice the difference between an arbitrator and a mediator, that would be terrific.	27/05/2021	101
162	SQ21-000429	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Rex Patrick	ACMA - Complaints from Government ministers	Senator PATRICK: Thank you very much. I'm just going to a follow-up question from Senator McKenzie: how many complaints has ACMA received about the ABC from government ministers? Ms Rainsford: We would have to take that question on notice.	27/05/2021	100
163	SQ21-000503	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Sarah Hanson-Young	ACMA - subscription television compliance	1. When will compliance results for the subscription television drama expenditure scheme for 2020 be released? 2. In those instances in which broadcasters failed to meet required levels of Australian or children's content, did the ACMA ask for any evidence that the non-compliance was a result of COVID-related interruptions to supply?		Written
164	SQ21-000344	Australian Communications and Media Authority	Bridget McKenzie	ACMA - Australian Cattle Council/ABC complaints through submissions	Senator McKENZIE: Have you been in contact with Cattle Council, as part of this investigation over the past 18 months? Ms O'Loughlin: Not as far as I'm aware, no. We accepted their submission, and we take it on their submission. Senator McKENZIE: You have no questions about their submission? Ms O'Loughlin: Their submission was very comprehensive.... Ms O'Loughlin: Our normal process is that we take the complaints that come to us-and, in this case, a very comprehensive complaint-Senator McKENZIE: Well, it was offensive.	27/05/2021	93-94

					<p>Ms O'Loughlin: and also the submissions from the broadcaster.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Okay. The ABC has also put in a submission?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: The ABC puts in submissions, yes.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: And it has put that in? When did you receive their submission?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: This is over the last 18 months. Did you get it to last year? Did you get it in 2020?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: It would have been in 2020, yes.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: On notice, please let me know.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: For completeness, we might give you the date of the original complaint to the ABC, the response from the ABC and when the submissions came to us.</p>		
165	SQ21-000338	Australia Council for the Arts	Anne Urquhart	Australia Council - Breakdown of City versus Regional funding	<p>Senator URQUHART: Do you have a breakdown of the city versus regional in terms of where your funding goes?</p> <p>Mr Collette: I can. I might have to give it to you in parts.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes, that's fine.</p> <p>Mr Collette: In our four-year funding round which we completed last year, we funded 95 companies and 27 per cent of those were based in the regions-I think that's the important point.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So 27 per cent?</p> <p>Mr Collette: Twenty-seven per cent and 26 organisations. That's important. If you look at our funding outside the major performing arts or the partnership framework, about 20 per cent of those funds directly support regional organisations. On the partnership framework, itself, I would say this: the results of the partnership framework will be announced by the minister and state ministers in due course, but when they are announced I think we will see the great potential of this framework to address priorities of governments around the regions, around remote areas, around greater diversity. The qualification I'd make is that we've done this under the cloak of COVID, where every organisation has been trying to save a whole lot of furniture. But the decisions being</p>	27/05/2021	68

					<p>made, when they are announced, I think, will show very promising signs of greater diversity, the potential of the framework to respond to priorities, and will manifestly show a greater investment in regional organisations.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Great. If you have any more detail around that breakdown of regional versus city, I'm happy for you to take that on notice and provide it back. That would be helpful.</p> <p>Mr Collette: Certainly.</p>		
166	SQ21-000327	Australian Postal Corporation	Nita Green	AUS POST - Posties - relief travel distance	<p>Senator GREEN: We'll come back to it, because I don't feel like you've answered my question and I do want to understand where the strategy is going around this issue. On relief posties: how far do relief posties travel from delivery centre to delivery centre? Is there a maximum average distance for those relief posties? There might be someone else who is operationally inclined.</p> <p>Mr Boys: That's not something that, operationally, I could tell you. I'm not sure whether Ms Davies might have any information. Otherwise we might just take that on notice and come back to you.</p> <p>Senator Hume: Take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Sorry, there's no-one with you today who can answer if there's a maximum average? Is there a distance or a cap for those people?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I'm not certain. We'd have to take it on notice, yes.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: If you could take that on notice.</p>	27/05/2021	52
167	SQ21-000328	Australian Postal Corporation	Nita Green	AUS POST - Posties - parcels on motobikes	<p>Senator GREEN: Mr Boys, I listened very carefully to your opening statement, thank you. I understand what's happened. I just seek to understand this, though: you've taken some posties off their bikes and into vans. I can understand why. But have you also been giving posties who are still on bikes the option or the direction to deliver smaller parcels? As you say and you claim, there's been an uptake in parcels and there are a lot more of the smaller parcels. People are doing online shopping. Are those posties getting more of the smaller parcels than they would have before rather than just letters?</p>	27/05/2021	51

					<p>Mr Boys: We try to give as much work as we can to our posties. What happens with the small-capacity vehicles like the motorcycles is that we are moving off them, one, from a safety perspective but also because they are small capacity, into either the larger eDVs which have got significantly more carrying capacity-that's our three-wheel bikes-and into vans. So the smaller parcels will go to posties if they can carry them or into the high capacity vehicles which are also done by posties or in vans which could be contractors or posties. You can't get a carton of six wines on the back of a motorbike. You might be able to get it in an eDV but definitely in a van.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: They're taking more parcels than they would have pre-COVID?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I would have to actually confirm that they were taking more parcels.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Do you want to take that on notice and we can find out?</p> <p>Mr Boys: We're 60 per cent up on parcels on April last year. We are now, over the last 12 months, 32 per cent up in parcels in totality.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Not totality. I am being very, very clear about what I'm asking.</p> <p>Mr Boys: It should be noted that, where we can, we're trying to provide our-</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I'm asking about those posties on bikes and if they're delivering more parcels than they were before COVID. I'm quite happy for you to take that on notice.</p>		
168	SQ21-000329	Australian Postal Corporation	Nita Green	AUS POST - Prescribed performance standards	<p>Senator GREEN: I'm sure you have some very detailed notes about meetings and things that take place. I'm sure that there are minutes of conversations that take place, if it's a formal meeting. Could you take on notice when that meeting occurred and whom you had that conversation with so that we can understand where the follow-through will be?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I can take it on notice but I can't recall whom I had</p>	27/05/2021	53

					<p>the conversation with.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: That's why I'm asking you to take it on notice, because you've said you can't recall.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Yes.</p>		
169	SQ21-000330	Australian Postal Corporation	Eric Abetz	AUS POST - Postal vote in Tasmania	<p>Senator ABETZ: I have also had concerns expressed to me about postal vote applications not arriving at an appropriate time for the Tasmanian state election. I think you have indicated to a colleague, Senator Green, that more people were brought to Tasmania for that purpose. Has Australia Post received any expressions of concern about postal votes not arriving on time?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I will refer to Mr Starr, who heads up our Business, Government and International, but not that I am aware of-in fact, to the contrary. We have dealt with an election in Tasmania-which was a snap election-in Western Australia, in Queensland, and in local government in Victoria and we have had glowing support from the AEC. Gary, would you like to comment on the senator's question?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: I think you're on mute. Take that question on notice; that's fine.</p>	27/05/2021	57
170	SQ21-000331	Australian Postal Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	AUS POST - CEO applications	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I wanted to go to the appointment of the new CEO. We haven't actually had Australia Post in front of estimates since the new appointment. I just wanted to understand the process that was gone through. Do you know how many-I know there was an external consultancy group brought in to help with that-applications there were for that CEO position?</p> <p>Mr Boys: The appointment of the CEO is the responsibility of the board. As acting CEO, the selection process wasn't something that I was involved in. We can either take that on notice or Ms Davies might be able to provide some insights. It's actually a board process best directed at the chair, not to management, which is represented here today.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Mr Macdonald, are you able to shed any light on this? You tend to give support to the board as much as</p>	27/05/2021	57

					<p>management.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: It is probably a question that my colleague Ms Davies is best placed to address as EGM, people and culture. She was supporting the board on the recruitment process, so I might defer to her, if that's all right.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Great.</p> <p>Ms Davies: In answer to the question-and we will take it on notice,</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So you'll take on notice how many applications were received. I'd like to know how many got to the short-list process. Do you know how many of them were women?</p> <p>Ms Davies: Yes. There were a number of tranches in the process. Again, I'll take on notice the exact number</p>		
171	SQ21-000332	Australian Postal Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	AUS POST - Reports and Consultancies	<p>Senator Hanson-Young: I'd like a list of all of the reports and consultancies that Australia Post has been involved in, either commissioned by Australia Post or commissioned by the shareholder ministers over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Mr Boys: I think there was the recent question on notice that we responded to, but-</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: We'll clarify that.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I'm asking again, in case something new has come up since then: we'll have a fulsome list of those and how much they cost. Thank you.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: We'll take that on notice.</p>	27/05/2021	58
172	SQ21-000334	Australian Postal Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	AUS POST - David Luff - Domestique	<p>Senator SHELDON: When you asked the question about whether he was still involved with Domestique at that time, he said that he-</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: At the time he was freelancing.</p> <p>Mr Boys: Correct.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You're not aware if that has changed.</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you take it on notice to see whether that's changed? Obviously it was an issue that has been raised with Mr Luff, because of concerns about potential conflict of interest. Can</p>	27/05/2021	61

					you take it on notice? Ms Sheffield: Yes.		
173	SQ21-000336	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	AUS POST - Electronic Advancement Data - Commission	<p>Senator McKENZIE: I'm assuming if the customers are having difficulty they get assistance from Australia Post staff to get the data in because we can't get it away otherwise. How are the costs for this additional regulatory requirement recovered?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: We're doing it. We have to incur that cost.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: My understanding is that licensees were compensated for Australia Post to recognise-</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: At the moment we're working through, with our licensees, the next phase of payment reform. International data capture is one of the things we're working with them on. We're consulting-</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: What do they get paid now to do? What is their compensation now?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: They're paid for the lodgement of the parcel. They're getting paid the commission for the lodgement of the parcel or the scan.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Is that around two per cent?</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: I'd have to take that on notice. I don't believe so-</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Paid in addition. My understanding is: going to be paid an additional two per cent on all international postage and products, but it's only on US parcels at the moment-given that it was the US, as the original decision.</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: That is not my understanding so I will have to take that on notice.</p>	27/05/2021	62
174	SQ21-000337	Australian Postal Corporation	Eric Abetz	AUS POST - Additional staffing in Tasmania	<p>Senator ABETZ: I'm sure Senator Urquhart in particular will be interested in this question-and that is, are you sending extra Australia Post people to Tasmania for the postal ballot for the Labor Party leadership that is currently being undertaken?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I'll have to take that question on notice. The state election was a snap one and it coincided-</p>	27/05/2021	56

					<p>Senator ABETZ: But there's now an even more important election. Mr Boys: An even more important one.</p>		
175	SQ21-000379	Australian Postal Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	AUS POST - McKinsey review - Commissioning	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: We were informed, or at least the references committee was informed, in relation to this additional Boston Consulting work that I know Senator Green has asked about. There's also some work that's been done by McKinsey's. You're aware of that, Mr Boys? Mr Boys: Yes. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Who commissioned that? Mr Boys: It might have been the past CEO. Mr Macdonald: We might have responded to a question on notice on that topic. Given that we haven't got the exact recollection now, we should take that as a question on notice. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But it was commissioned by Australia Post, wasn't it? Mr Macdonald: Correct. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: As opposed to the shareholding minister. Mr Macdonald: Correct. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Your recollection may be that was commissioned by the former CEO, but you can correct that. Mr Boys: Yes, we'll check that.</p>	27/05/2021	57
176	SQ21-000430	Australian Postal Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	AUS POST - McKinsey review - Report timing	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: When was that report handed down? Mr Boys: We've just submitted a question on notice. We have provided that to the committee. Mr Macdonald: I'm just looking for the timing here. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I assume you've got the cost there too, Mr Macdonald; if you can disclose the cost? Mr Macdonald: Approximately \$3 million. I don't have the timing for the delivery of the report here, but we can take it on notice. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But you have submitted that in a previous question on notice, have you? Mr Macdonald: I believe we have. I'll clarify that.</p>	27/05/2021	58

					<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you haven't, could you?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Sure.</p>		
177	SQ21-000431	Australian Postal Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	AUS POST - McKinsey review - Report copy	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: That would be helpful. We don't have a copy of that, do we? That hasn't been released?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: No, that hasn't been released.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there a reason we can't have a copy of that?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I believe, in response to a question on notice to the references committee, we noted that there was commercially sensitive information contained within that report. We didn't make a public interest immunity claim at that point. I think, in the response to the question, we indicated those considerations and asked the committee to be considerate of those. If we're now being asked for that then we'll take that as a question on notice. If we want to raise any of those concerns as a public interest immunity claim, we'll do so with the right supporting information.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: If you could table that for us, that would be helpful.</p>	27/05/2021	58
178	SQ21-000433	Australian Postal Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	AUS POST - David Luff - Due diligence	<p>Senator SHELDON: Just out of interest, is David Luff a silent partner in Domestique?</p> <p>Mr Boys: I'm not aware of that. I'd have to take that on notice, although it's probably a question for-</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I have no idea, but I don't think it's a question we can take on notice.</p> <p>Mr Boys: I think you're right.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You can take it on notice, because you would have a due diligence process about who people work for, wouldn't you? You either have knowledge of it somewhere in the system, or you don't have knowledge of it. That's what I mean. The system says there's knowledge-these are the people he works with; these are who he worked with-or is it like a buddy relationship where people get engaged because we know this person, that person knows that one and we engage them? Do you have a rigorous</p>	27/05/2021	59-60

				<p>process?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I'm saying that, as I understand it, our CEO says he has no knowledge of David Luff having an interest in Domestique. I'm saying I have no knowledge of that. I don't see how we can take a question on notice about David Luff's personal interests.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: No-this goes to a question of the appropriateness of somebody who's engaged or not engaged, what their relationships were and are and whether you're aware of those relationships or not. Both of you have given evidence to say that you're not aware of it. I'm asking, in the system of checking the engagement of David Luff, was there an analysis of who he is working for, what companies he'd worked for, was there a CV-was there an update on experience and performance in different operations? I would have thought all those sorts of obvious questions would be asked by an organisation like Australia Post certainly. If not, it's quite concerning.</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Senator, may I make my-</p> <p>Mr Boys: You asked about a silent partner relationship. Mr Macdonald and I have answered: we're not aware of a silent partner relationship.</p> <p>Ms Sheffield: Senator, if I can answer the question-I was the person that commissioned Domestique and I gave evidence as to that on 22 October. I also said that we'd terminate because Domestique were going to be providing services to our former CEO. I was also the person that had the conversation with David Luff about his relationship regarding Domestique post that-about whether he was a freelancer, whether he was an employee, what his relationship was. At that time his words to me were that he was a freelancer. Even though I wasn't involved in the direct commissioning, because he provided services to the board as Mr Boys has said, I can tell you that I did have that conversation with him to ensure that there wasn't any conflict.</p>		
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179	SQ21-000434	Australian Postal Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	AUS POST - Electronic Advance Data - Compliance	<p>Senator McKENZIE: Yes, that's my understanding, that this started off as a US requirement and licensees are being compensated two per cent of the US parcels. They get their international parcel but then it's two per cent for this additional data capture. But in the meantime, within that two years, there's more than just the US requiring this level of data capture. Is that correct, Mr Starr? Have I got it right?</p> <p>Mr Starr: The US went live, I believe, 1 January-and I can confirm the date-but I can't recall the date for other countries. I can take that on notice and confirm when we have to comply with other countries.</p> <p>Senator McKENZIE: Please do. Okay. Thank you</p>	27/05/2021	62-63
180	SQ21-000435	Australian Postal Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	AUS POST - Shareholder Minister instructions	<p>Senator SHELDON: Mr Macdonald, at Senate estimates on 9 November 2020 the chair was questioned extensively with regard to board processes and the relationship to executive bonuses. The response he gave that day was, in our view, not only evasive but deliberately left significant questions unanswered as to why the board was all of a sudden reconsidering executive bonuses after they were taken off the table in March and then why decisions on these bonuses kept mysteriously getting deferred. Having read over your responses again, it is clear you were instructed prior to the estimates hearing to conceal relevant facts as to what was going on. At one point it was established that on 28 August the board was still deliberating on executive bonuses for financial year 2020 despite there being no provision in the accounts and all the financial results having already been released. Why the board continued to defer and deliberate remains a mystery. Ms Holgate has since given detailed testimony that raises very serious questions not only about the governance of the board but the sheer extent of its dysfunction. I want to go through the testimony given on 13 April to hear your response to the serious questions they raise. Ms Holgate said: I'm happy to prepare another paper on this, but there is significant correspondence, and there were board</p>	27/05/2021	65

					<p>meetings where it was minuted that the two ministers instructed us that we were not to pay incentives, at one stage, to any manager in the organisation. Senator Kitching went on to say: When was that? Ms Holgate responded: This was in July and August this year. Do you dispute this evidence that was given by Ms Holgate?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Sorry; that was a very long question.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You're a lawyer. I'm pretty confident you got what I said.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Which particular part of that did you want me to address? The comment by Christine Holgate-if you wouldn't mind clarifying.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: There is an important issue about the question: putting aside the executive team, did shareholder ministers issue an instruction not to pay incentives to any manager in the organisation?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: When you say instruction, do you mean a direction in the sense of a direction under section 49 of the Australian Postal Corporation Act?</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Yes, that, but also was there instruction? Was there a call to say, 'This is what we want you to do?' All of the above.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I'm certainly not aware of a direction under the act. As to the communications that were had with the shareholder ministers, I was not party to those, so I'm not in a position to reliably comment on those. I think it's appropriate that we take that question on notice so we can give you an accurate and complete response.</p>		
181	SQ21-000436	Australian Postal Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	AUS POST - Communication to Executive Team	<p>Senator SHELDON: Did you tell the executive team that, if they kept their heads down, they would get their bonuses?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Did I tell the executive team that?</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Did you or, to your knowledge, anybody within Australia Post say words similar to that effect?</p>	27/05/2021	65

					<p>Mr Macdonald: I don't think I did-well, I didn't; I'll be definitive about that. Otherwise, we will have to take that question on notice, because that is one that's directed to the executive team as a whole.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I will put them both on notice.</p>		
182	SQ21-000506	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - Australia Post Board	<p>1. Will the Australia Post Board be implementing Senator Pauline Hanson's recommendations to the recent Environment and Communications References Committee Inquiry that:</p> <p>a) That the Australia Post Chair, Mr Lucio Di Bartolomeo, be removed from the Board.</p> <p>b) That the Prime Minister and the Shareholder Ministers, Ministers Fletcher and Birmingham, should each offer an unqualified apology to Ms Christine Holgate.</p> <p>c) That Mr Bruce McIver AM, currently the longest serving Board member at Australia Post, be forthwith appointed as interim Chair and that his appointment to the Board, which is currently due to expire this year, be extended accordingly.</p>		Written
183	SQ21-000507	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - Banking services	<p>1. Please update us on banking services being provided through Australia Post Branches. In particular, is Australia Post both working on securing banking services for remote and regional communities and on ensuring that Australia Post licensees are remunerated appropriately? 2. How will changes to banking services impact Australia Post revenues and LPO revenues?</p>		Written
184	SQ21-000508	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - review of the current technology fee structure and provision of EPOS terminals in LPOs	<p>From March Senate Estimates, have you completed a review of the current technology fee structure with a view to providing EPOS terminals in Licensed Post Offices and what is the outcome? If not, what is the status, provide interim report/s and advise next steps?</p>		Written
185	SQ21-000509	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - review of the provision of	<p>1. Have you, or will you, undertake a review of the provision of Australia Post products to the LPO network with a view to providing this product group on consignment to Licensees? When will Australia Post licensees hear a result from such a review?</p>		Written

				Australia Post products to LPOs			
186	SQ21-000510	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - Transition to trikes	Has the recent change from the 'postie bikes' to the bigger 'trikes' been successful and what have employees to say about it and are accidents going up or down, data please?		Written
187	SQ21-000511	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - 2020/21 revenue tracking	Year to date, are you on track for a profit or loss in 2020/21? Why/reasons?		Written
188	SQ21-000519	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Domestique	<p>a) In 2020, on what date did Australia Post first engage Domestique? Please list the first date of outreach, along with the date contracts were signed.</p> <p>b) On what date did the engagement with Domestique end and why?</p> <p>c) How much were Domestique paid in total?</p> <p>d) What services did Domestique provide to Australia Post?</p> <p>e) Did Domestique also provide services to the Australia Post Board? If yes, what were they?</p> <p>f) Was David Luff providing any services to Australia Post over that time as part of the Domestique engagement?</p>		Written
189	SQ21-000520	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - David Luff	<p>a) On what date did Australia Post first engage David Luff?</p> <p>b) Was there any relationship between the timing of when David Luff was engaged, and when the engagement with Domestique ended?</p> <p>c) Why was David Luff engaged? Was this a recommendation of the Board and/or a Board member?</p>		Written

					<p>d) Under what company name was David Luff operating?</p> <p>e) What services did David Luff provide?</p> <p>f) Is David Luff still providing services to Australia Post?</p> <p>g) How much has David Luff been paid to date, and is he still on retainer?</p> <p>h) How many billable hours of services has he provided?</p> <p>i) Was David Luff providing any services to the Australia Post Board? If yes, what were they?</p> <p>j) If the engagement with David Luff has ended, on what date did it end?</p>		
190	SQ21-000521	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Price increases impacting on small business	<p>a) When was the air economy letter with merchandise service suspended? What weight of product could it be used to carry?</p> <p>b) Why has the air economy letter with merchandise service been permanently suspended?</p> <p>c) Were impacts on small business considered as part of this decision?</p> <p>d) Did any consultation with small business bodies or small business users occur?</p> <p>e) What did it cost previously for a small business to send product under 50 grams from Australia to the USA using the economy air letter with merchandise service?</p> <p>f) What does it cost now for a small business to send merchandise</p>		Written

					<p>under 50 grams from Australia to the USA via Australia Post?</p> <p>Please name the specific parcel product and its costs, along with a public link where this claim can be independently verified.</p> <p>g) What options are available for small sellers whose business models have been made unviable as a result of these changes by Australia Post? What product must they now use? And what is the equivalent cost of that product?</p> <p>h) Does Australia Post track what volume of Air Economy letters were used to send merchandise with a customs declaration form under 125 grams? If yes, how many were sent in 2019 and 2020?</p> <p>i) Is it not possible for the scannable barcode on the Economy Air Letter with merchandise to be used to transmit EAD information? If not, why not? Why can't the online interface used to submit EAD declarations be linked to a barcode on an Economy Air Letter product?</p>		
191	SQ21-000522	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Bourke Street Office	<p>a) What are the lease terms on Australia Post's Bourke Street office?</p> <p>b) When was the lease entered into?</p> <p>c) For how many years does it run?</p> <p>d) How many square metres of floor space does the office have?</p> <p>e) What is the cost per square metre per year?</p> <p>f) IS the cost per square metre indexed at CPI over the life of the lease agreement?</p> <p>g) How many employees work out of Bourke Street?</p>		Written

					<p>h) What is the cost of the lease annually?</p> <p>i) What is the cost of the lease over its duration?</p>		
192	SQ21-000523	Australian Postal Corporation	Anne Urquhart	Australia Post - Rollback of Australia Post Service Cuts	<p>a) On what date do the temporary regulations which cut Australia Post service standards expire?</p> <p>b) The Minister for Communications has indicated the regulations expire on 30 June 2021. Has Australia Post begun rolling back to the existing regulations? If not, why not?</p> <p>c) Has the Minister sought a timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back?</p> <p>d) Has the Minister for Communications been presented with a documented timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back?</p> <p>e) Has the Board sought a timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back?</p> <p>f) Has the Board been provided with a timetable on when the regulations will be rolled back?</p> <p>g) Given the regulations expire on 30 June 2021, when does Australia Post expect to have fully rolled back to the original pre-COVID service standards?</p> <p>h) Given the regulations expire on 30 June 2021, when does Australia Post expect to have fully rolled reverted to 5 day delivery frequency?</p> <p>i) Given the regulations expire on 30 June 2021, when does</p>		Written

				<p>Australia Post expect to have restored the priority mail service?</p> <p>j) Will priority mail resume on 1 July 2021? If not, why not? Provide the operational and legal reasons.</p> <p>k) Will 5 day delivery frequency resume on 1 July 2021? If not, why not? If not, why not? Provide the operational and legal reasons.</p> <p>l) Will 3 day intrastate delivery timeframe resume on 1 July 2021? If not, why not? If not, why not? Provide the operational and legal reasons.</p> <p>m) Regarding the questioning below from Budget Estimates:</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Mr Macdonald, is there any truth to this suggestion that you have made a similar comment to Australia Post management personnel, that a loophole has been discovered in those regulations and there's a sense that Australia Post could continue to operate with reduced service delivery under the original service regulations?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: Let's see. Have I made a statement to management personnel that there might be a loophole that exists in the regulations?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: No, I haven't.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Something like that maybe?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I have been asked that question about whether the regulations are open to interpretation.</p>		
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					<p>Senator GREEN: Who asked you that question?</p> <p>Mr Macdonald: I can't remember. It came up in the course of a conversation about regulatory relief and my view was that there wasn't that sort of a loophole and, even if there were, it wouldn't be tenable to rely upon it.</p> <p>i. Who asked Mr Macdonald the question? Please search the necessary email and text records to inform the response.</p> <p>ii. Do the comments of Mr Macdonald represent the position of the Australia Post?</p>		
193	SQ21-000353	Classification Board	Anne Urquhart	Classification Board - Case load of classifications decisions	<p>Senator URQUHART: In terms of the board's caseload, is it going up and down? Is it stable or are there greater or lesser demands on the board's resources?</p> <p>Ms Bickerstaff: The last annual report will have the exact figures of the classification decisions that were made. I think that was around 3,060 or 3,070. I can take that on notice and give you exact figures.</p>	27/05/2021	104
194	SQ21-000354	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Classification Board - KPI's	<p>Senator URQUHART: What key performance indicators, KPIs, does the Classification Board have in relation to its caseload for classification decisions?</p> <p>Ms Bickerstaff: The board don't currently measure those. That's a matter for the department.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Windeyer?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice and come back to you with some detail on that. I'm very happy to.</p>	27/05/2021	104
195	SQ21-000355	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Classification Board - Property lease arrangements	<p>Senator URQUHART: I don't know whether you can tell me this, or whether Mr Windeyer might need to answer it, but what is the current property lease arrangement for the buildings in which you are located?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice. Just for your information, it's a building that is used by the department with</p>	27/05/2021	105

					<p>staff beyond just supporting the Classification Board.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Right. So who else is in there?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Again, I could take it on notice. There are a number of other staff who are located in the office in Sydney, but I'm happy-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could give us that detail that would be great. Do you know how long the lease arrangement is for? When does it end? What does it cost?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If you could take that on notice that would be great. Ms Bickerstaff, has the Classification Board been consulted or worked with the department to identify what efficiencies may be made by rolling the Classification Board functions into the ACMA?</p>		
196	SQ21-000380	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Anne Urquhart	Classification Board - Moving the functions in the ACMA	<p>Senator URQUHART: Ms Bickerstaff, what is the Classification Board's understanding of the benefits of a proposal to move the Classification Board's functions into the ACMA?</p> <p>Ms Bickerstaff: We haven't been consulted on that.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Windeyer?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Senator, I think, as you raised yesterday, the question of putting a movement in this space was canvassed in the ACMA review back in 2017. I would have to take on notice, to refresh my memory, what the basis for that was, as articulated in the ACMA review?</p>	27/05/2021	105
197	SQ21-000284	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Inquiry into bonus payments	<p>Senator KITCHING: Mr Rue, are you putting in a submission to Assistant Minister Morton's inquiry into bonus payments?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes. We were given a consultation paper, which we have responded to.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: How did you respond? Are you able to table that?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'll take that on notice. I don't know the answer, so I'll take that on notice. Basically we do support the principles within the consultation paper: the fact that NBN, as a Commonwealth-owned</p>	27/05/2021	7-8

					entity-that there should be good governance processes around remuneration of employees; the fact that there should be transparency of those remuneration processes; and that the general principles of community expectation exist in listed companies as well as-even more so-in a government business enterprise. What I would say, though, is that there is there is a difference between a bonus payment and an at-risk payment. The reason for that is because an employee will have a particular remuneration, but some of that is put at risk. It's not as if they have a salary and then a bonus, per se, comes on top of that. There is a particular remuneration and then, depending upon the performance of the company against board-driven targets, which are typically a range of targets-or what's called a 'balance scorecard' in business speak-there is performance against that by the company and performance of an individual. So it is an at-risk pay rather than a bonus. There is a difference.		
198	SQ21-000286	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Cancelled appointments	Senator KITCHING: Have you given me a figure for how many technician appointments have been cancelled in the last month? Ms Dyer: No, I haven't, but I can definitely take that on notice.	27/05/2021	11
199	SQ21-000287	NBN Co Limited	Samantha McMahon	NBN Co - Network performance	Senator McMAHON: Could you update us on your most recent reliability metrics, including the most recent network up-time? Mr Parkin: In terms of the overall network performance, I'll take that question on notice so that I'm factually correct. We've certainly been working to improve the overall network. As Mr Rue has said, as we're building out the capacity of the network, we're currently seeing across the board 35 per cent of the overall network where customers can now reach in and receive a one-gigabit speed. We're continuing to build that capability across all of our technology types at the moment, but I'll get you the actual number in a couple of minutes.	27/05/2021	16
200	SQ21-000288	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - Salaries - 0 - 100k band	CHAIR: Just before I hand the call back, Senator Kitching, I just want to record which questions on notice have to be carried forward. My recollection is that you were asking for information	27/05/2021	17 & 32

					<p>about the number of employees in a salary band. Does answer No. 12 here address your question?</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No, it doesn't. Firstly, that is 179 employees who received a bonus; it doesn't tell me the total number.</p> <p>CHAIR: Question No. 12 has 216 employees in the salary band—</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No; that relates to the previous financial year. I would like to know about this financial year; are you able to do that?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I've asked the team. I know exactly what you're asking. ...</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Mr Rue, I want the total number in that band, as you understand.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Yes.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: But I would also like it if you could break it down between zero and \$50,000, and \$50,001 to \$100,000.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Of course we will, but we will not have that in the next day.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: No. What I really want now is the total number in that band; but just take it on notice to break it down when you can.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I will, absolutely. Just for total clarity, what you're looking for is the total number of employees in that band.</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Yes.</p> <p>[p. 32]</p> <p>Senator KITCHING: Can I ask: Mr Rue, are you able to give me a breakdown of the 1,761 at 30 June 2020 and just how many are non-FTEs? Do you think you'll be able to do that? I don't need it now but if you could take it on notice. I'll just leave it there and come back.</p> <p>Mr Rue: You're keeping our team busy but I'm sure they can do it.</p>		
201	SQ21-000289	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - CEPU meeting	<p>Senator URQUHART: What levels of the union have you met with since 9 May; can you provide us with that?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Yes. We did meet with the head of the CEPU.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: On what date was that?</p>	27/05/2021	18-19

					<p>Ms Dyer: I'll have to check the exact date. It was before the letter to Mr Rue, and it was in relation to some correspondence that we'd received from the CEPU, which our delivery partners had also received, and from our direct contact with them. A meeting was set up with two of my executive general managers in construction and field services.</p> <p>[p.19]</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I'm more than happy to have, on notice, the details of when the meetings were and who attended when these matters were discussed.</p>		
202	SQ21-000283	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - Payments changes	<p>Senator SHELDON: That means that you didn't consult with unions, small-business contractors or technicians. Can you confirm that, under BSA, the contracting firm, fibre-to-the-node activation payments have dropped from \$98 to \$85?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I can't confirm that.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: That is a 13 per cent reduction. Can you confirm that, under BSA, fibre-to-the-curb activation payments have dropped from \$97 to \$61.40, which is close to a 30 per cent drop?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Again, I can't confirm that, but I am happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you confirm that fibre-to-the-base activation payments have dropped from \$105 to \$84.43?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Again, I would need to look at that.</p> <p>[.]</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I would have hoped that, in light of the fact that we are looking at substantial reductions in rates across the system-you said that is part of your remit-there would have been a proper response to those questions, because a 30 per cent reduction is a substantial amount for that significant work. Can you confirm that the payment to install or remove a distribution-point unit, depending on the delivery partner, has decreased from between \$108 to \$80 to an hourly rate payment of \$60 per hour where the expected payment is close to \$30?</p>	27/05/2021	23-24

					<p>Ms Dyer: I can't confirm that. I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you confirm that the installation of a lead-in cable underground has dropped from \$90 to an hourly payment rate of \$60 per hour where the expected payment is \$30?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: What I tried to explain before-</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I am simply asking whether you can confirm that you are aware of that rate for the installation of a cable.</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Offhand, I can't.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Can you name one industry where a technician turns up in a van, enters a customer's home, performs a job and gets paid \$60?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: No, I can't.</p>		
203	SQ21-000293	NBN Co Limited	David Fawcett	NBN Co - Panel arrangements model	<p>CHAIR: I'm going to give the call to Senator Bragg. Just before I do, I understand that NBN is a GBE; therefore, you are exempt from the Commonwealth's Procurement Rules and you're expected to operate as a commercial entity. In relation to some of the practices within government, I look at Defence, where they engage with a wide range of firms who provide services, including subcontractors. This is done on a panel basis, where the panel contracting arrangements have been looked at in depth in terms of profit margins and fairness skills et cetera to make sure that the Commonwealth is protected. It provides a low amount of administrative effort to engage someone, but you know that the contract is going to be value for money for all parties concerned. You can take this on notice: has NBN considered those kinds of models in terms of addressing the challenges that Ms Dyer has just outlined about the fact that we're a broad country?</p> <p>Mr Rue: In this specific example, that's exactly what we're doing. At the end of the day, the delivery partners are the ones who negotiate with the technicians. But we have undertaken exactly that exercise to see whether the payments being made are relatively equivalent-there will always be ups and downs, obviously-to the work that was done previously. That is actually</p>	27/05/2021	26

					<p>the exercise that we're doing here. As a broader point, as a GBE, we obviously implement policy and we obviously have to run ourselves as a business; but I can tell you that we treat every cent that we spend as taxpayers' money. Therefore, things like the procurement rules are very much guided by the Commonwealth. They are not exactly the same, but they are very much guided by the principles within the Commonwealth Procurement Rules. So, in this example, I suggest that's what we're doing, Chair. But thank you; we'll take your thought on board.</p> <p>CHAIR: Thank you. Perhaps you can come back to me on notice just to explain whether that general model-</p> <p>Mr Rue: We can do that, yes.</p> <p>CHAIR: of panels of providers, in terms of pre-agreed terms and conditions, is something that-</p> <p>Mr Rue: We will take that on notice as a question and we will lay out how we operate our procurement function, taking into account what you've just asked me.</p>		
204	SQ21-000294	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Audit of delivery partners	<p>Ms Dyer: Our contract with our delivery partners states the scope of work and the types of work activities that we ask them to perform and the types of skills that we need in order for those works to be performed.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Do you think you could find those skills on Gumtree? Do you think you could find those skills where there's no formal contracting or employment agreement? How can you opt in and say you've got the skills required if there's no formal contract or agreement?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: From our perspective, with the delivery partner we have a platform called enAble. The delivery partner uploads its technicians' details, the dates of their certification, the technologies and that they've got the required capabilities to meet the scope of works. They upload that into the systems. That's how, essentially, we're confident, and that's audited. Those types of things are audited and we know that a competent contractor is</p>	27/05/2021	37-38

				<p>being provided by the delivery partner to NBN to be able to perform the works.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Does the documentation include whether they're legally allowed to work in Australia?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: That documentation would be from the delivery partner to the subcontractor. I would need to take that on notice to see whether we can clarify that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So you don't see those skills or qualifications?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: We see the certification, that the delivery partner has certified to us of the—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The delivery partner has certified it to you?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Yes.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Who certifies the delivery partner's work?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: In terms of the outcome of the work?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In terms of the qualifications of the employees?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: We do that from a quality lens where we audit the work in terms of the work completed. We have a strong health and safety—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You don't audit the qualifications themselves?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I would need to look at the actual detail of whether we capture the evidence of the certification of that tech. There is a governance, if you like, of the certification. I would need to check whether they actually provide a certificate.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'd like you to check that, please. Who conducts accreditation training?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: That will depend on the accreditation that is—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. I'd like very clearly for you to take on notice what accreditation processes exist for technicians to be qualified to work on the NBN and what oversight and governance processes exist to ensure those accreditation processes are sufficient. What I want you to be able to demonstrate with the accreditation is that you haven't got unqualified workers or workers with fewer qualifications displacing workers who are properly accredited. Is</p>		
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					<p>NBN aware of third parties who list advertisements on Facebook Marketplace selling NBN enabler accreditations for \$100?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: No, I'm not aware of that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You wouldn't be aware if any of those accreditations appear in your audited process?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I'm sorry; I'm not aware of the Facebook post.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. I guess it's a given. With the data that you've audited from your primes about their accreditation, would they be aware, would you be aware, if any of those accreditations had been bought on Facebook?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: When we come back to you on our process and the verification of the process, I can answer that question.</p>		
205	SQ21-000295	NBN Co Limited	Samantha McMahon	NBN Co - NAFRI	<p>Senator McMAHON: Do you utilise the NAFRI, the North Australia Fire and Rangelands Information, site?</p> <p>Mr Parkin: Yes. I'm pretty sure we do, but I will double-check that for you.</p> <p>Senator McMAHON: Thank you.</p>	27/05/2021	33
206	SQ21-000297	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - Contract renewal	<p>Ms Dyer: The BSA are one of our delivery partners and they have contracts with NBN under Unify.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Those contracts are potentially up to an eight-year agreement?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: There is optionality in the initial term of the agreement. There are options to extend.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: When does the extension question come into play and how long is the extension, potentially?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Due to the complexity of the arrangement-as you can imagine, it wouldn't be easy to change delivery partners-we start looking at that probably about two years before the first trigger point. We would look at it more closely about a year out.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So they could extend up to an eight-year agreement under those circumstances?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I would need to check the exact term, if it is a plus four. Often they are two plus two or something. Plus four is unusual, so I</p>	27/05/2021	34

					<p>would like to check that. It might be incremental add-ons, rather than four plus four.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: You can come back to me. Is there someone here who can give you the answer on that?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Yes, there should be, hopefully.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: If you could take that on notice and bring it back as soon as possible; thank you.</p>		
207	SQ21-000300	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - SMAX	<p>Ms Dyer: The ServiceMax platform sits on another platform called Salesforce. Essentially it's an app which coordinates workforce movements, if you like. Appointments are loaded in. If I start at the start of the process, there's an event-whether initiated by a retail service provider or the end customer, either for an insurance job or for an activations job-that's logged in NBN's systems. It then goes into ServiceMax and that essentially becomes visible to the technician where they need to go and perform their work. It also provides them details about the problem, about the premises. It's a way that they can record information-health and safety information and information about the job-and it builds up information that NBN stores and can use at a later date.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How much did it cost to develop and when did it go live?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I will have to take on notice the cost in terms of the deployment of the system but we started a soft launch at the end of March in South Australia. We then progressively rolled out to Tasmania, then to Victoria and then at the end of April we went to New South Wales. They're the states we've rolled out in.</p>	27/05/2021	40
208	SQ21-000301	NBN Co Limited	Louise Pratt	NBN Co - Workforce systems	<p>Senator PRATT: What's the actual cause of the latency and lag in the system and why wasn't this an issue in the early phases of the rollout?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: I think it was a bit of a compounding problem with the amount of users that we had on the system and again-and this is feedback that we received-we were loading a lot of artefacts in the field and we were asking the subcontractors and delivery</p>	27/05/2021	41

					<p>partners to use the app in a work-front way. So we worked very closely with our delivery partners and our subcontractors to really refine that as we went. That was always part of the plan but again, when New South Wales was added, overall it doubled the amount of contractors.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So at the back end you have Salesforce, ServiceNow and Oracle. Were there any others, did you say?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: It goes Salesforce, SMAX and ServiceNow. They are really the three parts. Oracle is more related to payments.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: If you could take on notice, please, what each part of that system is doing?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Yes, sure.</p>		
209	SQ21-000302	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - HFC software provisioning team location	<p>Senator URQUHART: Right. What about people who do software and remote provisioning of servers? Where are they based?</p> <p>Mr Parkin: I would have to take that question on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So you don't know?</p> <p>Mr Parkin: Not 100 per cent sure, no.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Do you know, Mr Rue?</p> <p>Mr Rue: No, but the team will come back with the answer before 2.30.</p>	27/05/2021	44
210	SQ21-000303	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - HFC speed - related service faults	<p>Senator URQUHART: But you don't capture the service faults?</p> <p>Mr Parkin: No; we monitor the performance of all the nodes proactively to see what speeds are occurring across the nodes.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: I am happy for you to provide this on notice; how many HFC speed-related service faults have you received since February 2021?</p> <p>Mr Rue: We will take that away; we wouldn't have that here.</p>	27/05/2021	44
211	SQ21-000304	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC lead-ins	<p>Senator URQUHART: This is my final question on this topic. How many lead-ins for FTTC premises do you expect to build by 2024?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't have that. We're in the middle of preparing a corporate plan. I hate to say this, but can you hold that question until the next Senate hearing, because we'll have done our plan and I'll be able answer on that occasion.</p>	27/05/2021	46

					<p>Senator URQUHART: Well, I'm asking you now. What do you expect to build?</p> <p>Mr Rue: We're currently building up those sorts of assumptions for the next corporate plan. I don't have it here today, and nor is the corporate plan completed.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Can you take it on notice, Mr Rue?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm very happy to take it on notice. What I can tell you is that, assuming the next Senate hearing is after the corporate plan release, we'll be able to answer that.</p>		
212	SQ21-000305	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - Lead-in conduit	<p>Senator SHELDON: There'll be some commercial arrangements you'll have, but you're not quite clear whether-I may have misunderstood-there are arrangements for all circumstances?</p> <p>Mr Rue: To be clear: where we own or have built or have upgraded a lead-in conduit and somebody else wants access to that, there are formulas applied, if you like, to ensure that NBN is able to cover the costs of providing that to a third party, essentially. What happens with the Telstra conduits and third parties I can't comment on.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Why has NBN Co imposed a 100-metre per connection purchasing requirement on access seekers?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: I think conceptually because the first metre is the most expensive metre and so, in essence, it's sort of a minimum mobilisation charge. It's just a practical way to get around the fact that it costs a lot to mobilise to get out and get access to the LIC.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So why are access seekers being forced to buy 100 metres, in some cases, of lead-in conduit when in many instances NBN Co don't even own the 100 metres of lead-in conduit and the access seeker doesn't need 100 metres?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: As I said, it's just a pricing mechanism. It represents what the cost is to get out there initially to get access into that LIC.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So they're paying for 100 metres even though they're not getting it or don't need it?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: You can look at it another way; they're paying to</p>	27/05/2021	47-48

					<p>get access and the first 100 metres is free.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Certainly, the way that it's actually presented from NBN Co is that there's 100 metres of lead-in conduit which needs to be put in by NBN Co and, in some circumstances, the access seeker doesn't need 100 metres, but you're charging them for it. Mr Whitcomb: Well, we're just going in circles. As I said, there's a minimum charge to get out and access it-</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: I don't think we're going in circles; I'm making a point.</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: My point is that there's a minimum charge to access the LIC and you get the first 100 metres included in that.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Why don't we take your question on notice and lay out exactly how it works? That may be an easier way for you to-</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: That would be of assistance as well.</p>		
213	SQ21-000524	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - NBN over budget	Why has the cost of the NBN multi-technology mix gone from an original promise of \$29.5 billion, to \$57 billion?		Written
214	SQ21-000525	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - NBN Rollout	Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to the NBN by the end of 2021? Or does NBN still expect some complex premises to be outstanding?		Written
215	SQ21-000526	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Minimum speeds	<p>a) Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to minimum download speeds of 25 megabits per second by the end of 2021?</p> <p>b) Will all brownfield premises in Australia have access to minimum upload speeds of 5 megabits per second by the end of 2021?</p>		Written
216	SQ21-000527	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Regional new developments	<p>a) Regarding 15/1/20 STG-W000120806 Diamond Drive Thurgoona NSW 2640. The Developer contracted Dunlop Directional Drilling to perform work.</p> <p>Why did Securitel attend the site on behalf of QC Communications and seek to install pit and pipe beyond network boundary for free on behalf of NBNC?</p> <p>b) Regarding 10/7/20 STG-W000156751 Douglas Rd Rutherglen</p>		Written

				<p>VIC 3685</p> <p>The Developer contracted GCS Pty Ltd to do design. The design was registered and accepted by NBNCo. The developer contracted local pit and pipe installer to perform electrical and communications underbore and installation as per accepted NBN design.</p> <p>i. Why Delta attend the site on behalf of QC Communications and provided an underbore at tax payers' expense on behalf of NBNCo?</p> <p>ii. Who approved this?</p> <p>iii. Can NBNCo confirm whether the Delta underbore damaged roadway and Indigo Shire Council was involved to rectify?</p> <p>iv. What impact did this work have in the electrical utilities that also had to be laid down? Was remediation required on that front?</p> <p>c) Regarding 12/5/20 STG-W000091990 Havelock Rd Beechworth VIC 3747</p> <p>The civil engineer supplied NBNCo an application. The developer contracted GCS Pty Ltd to provide NBNCo design. GCS Pty Ltd received no further correspondence and did not supply NBNCo design.</p> <p>i. Who ended up building the pit and pipe infrastructure in this development?</p> <p>ii. At whose expense? NBNCo's or the developers?</p> <p>iii. What was the construction ID for the installed pits?</p> <p>d) Regarding 2/10/20 STG-W000158826 Jude St Howlong NSW 2643</p> <p>GCS Pty Ltd quote accepted by client. The developed paid the NBNCo invoice 2/10/20 and received NBNCo provisioning confirmation.</p>		
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				<p>GCS Pty Ltd received no further correspondence and did not supply NBNCo design.</p> <p>i. Who ended up building the pit and pipe infrastructure in this development?</p> <p>ii. At whose expense? NBNCo's or the developers?</p> <p>iii. What was the construction ID for the installed pits?</p> <p>e) Regarding 10/7/20 STG-W00042531 Goldfields Estate Stage 2 Parkes NSW 2870: On 19 August 2020 GCS Pty Ltd provided client with NBNCo approved construction plans.</p> <p>i. Why did Lendlease under Project No 209115 subsequently provide Construction drawings for headworks and private pit and pipe 3 months after NBNCO approved drawings were provided by GCS?</p> <p>ii. Who in NBNCo initiated and approved this?</p> <p>iii. Did this drawing Conform to NBN-TE-CTO-194 for new developments?</p> <p>iv. A Sub Contractor then attended site unannounced and proceeded to excavate and install private pit and pipe on behalf of NBNCo at tax payers expense until ordered by developer to cease work. Why did this occur? And who approved it?</p> <p>f) E & D Dunlop service an area incorporating regional centres such as Albury/Wodonga, Benalla, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Griffith/Leeton, and Wagga which includes 367,522 Residents. How is it possible that in this massive area the company has only received three projects in 5 years from the NBN Prime Contractor Visionstream/Venita? Or two projects from Downer.</p> <p>g) During design of the Nexus project at Ettamogah, the company brought to the</p>		
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				<p>attention of NBNC Co that the project could be delivered via a shorter path which would ultimately save tax payer dollars and the advice was ignored. It was subsequently established that the prime contractor engaged contractors from out of town who were paid Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA) and travel to and from the job site. How is this an efficient use of taxpayer resources? And why is NBNC Co turning its back on local regional companies?</p> <p>h) E & D Dunlop has been assigned projects in small rural communities such as Milwala for \$44 and have contacted the NBN delivery partner explaining that they would take on the job for a minimum fee of \$500 as it is financially not viable to take on works under this value. The NBN delivery partners informed E & D Dunlop that they cannot negotiate on the price. Instead they engaged a contractor from a different area, paid travel of \$1.95 per km and \$201.11 per person per night. For a crew of two people, that could cost over \$1,500 once accommodation is taken into account. How is this financially viable for the tax payer, considering there is local resources available?</p> <p>i) Do NBNC Co have a policy on using local resources in regional areas?</p> <p>j) Why is it that considering that there are at least 4 active companies within the work area of E & D Dunlop, that none of these companies receive work from the NBN prime contractors?</p> <p>k) Is it NBN policy to have regional and metropolitan work performed solely by its Delivery Partners?</p>		
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					<p>l) Do NBN Delivery Partners operate on a large work volume to a few special subcontractors and expect them to absorb costs associated with projects in rural and regional areas?</p> <p>m) Have regional based Tier 2 contractors had their contracts terminated recently? Please list locations.</p>		
217	SQ21-000528	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Infrastructure payments to Telstra	Infrastructure-related costs primarily represent the contractual payments for accessing Telstra's infrastructure. Please outline the costs in the table provided.		Written
218	SQ21-000529	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Derivation of Opex	With regards to the response given by NBNCo in QON248 a) Given the evidence by NBNCo that OPEX can be derived, please derive the OPEX profile and outline in the table provided. b) Can NBNCo confirm its true OPEX profile (inclusive of Telstra lease payments which were ~ \$1.0 billion per annum in FY2021) as outlined in the table provided?		Written
219	SQ21-000530	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Cancelled technician appointments	a) How many technician appointments did NBN make with RSPs, and then cancel, in April 2021? b) How many technician appointments did NBN make with RSPs, and then cancel, in May 2021?		Written
220	SQ21-000531	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Criteria for FTTN to FTTP upgrades	a) Has NBN decided upon its criteria for what plan a consumer would have to purchase to be upgraded from FTTN to FTTP? If yes, please provide the detail.		Written
221	SQ21-000532	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - G.fast problems	a) When did NBNCo make the decision to abandon the use of g.fast to deliver 1 gigabit speeds? b) Was the Minister briefed before this development was announced? If yes, how was the briefing delivered and on what date? c) Was the Department briefed before this development was announced? If yes, how was the briefing delivered and on what date?		Written
222	SQ21-000533	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Staff employed by salary band	a) How many people did NBN employ at the end of FY2020 with a base salary between \$100,000 to \$150,000? b) How many people did NBN employ at the end of FY2020 with a base salary between \$150,000 and \$200,000?		Written

223	SQ21-000534	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Working from home	a) On average, what proportion of NBN employees work from home?		Written
224	SQ21-000535	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Victorian storm outages	a) How many services were impacted by the storms in total in Victoria? b) What proportion of impacted services were on HFC? c) What proportion of impacted services were on FTTN? d) What proportion of impacted services were on FTTP? e) What proportion of impacted services were on FTTC? f) What proportion of impacted services were on Fixed Wireless? These questions refer to the storm referenced in the blog below: https://www.nbnco.com.au/blog/the-nbn-project/severe-weather-impacting-victoria		Written
225	SQ21-000536	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTN	a) How many premises, which were previously planned for FTTN, have been shifted to Satellite because NBN could not deliver minimum speeds of 25 megabits per second over the FTTN copper loop?		Written
226	SQ21-000537	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTC	a) Please list the areas in the FTTC footprint that NBNC Co has identified as having elevated lightning risk. b) How many FTTC modems has NBNC Co replaced across these areas?		Written
227	SQ21-000538	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Distribution of employees	a) Please provide a breakdown of staffing distribution across each state and territory.		Written
228	SQ21-000539	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - FTTP Brownfield RFS	a) What is the RFS size of the FTTP Brownfield footprint? Please provide the precise figure, or to two decimal places.		Written
229	SQ21-000541	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Executive bonuses	a) What proportion of executive committee bonuses for FY2020 were linked to network availability? b) What proportion of executive committee bonuses for FY2020 were linked to network congestion experienced by RSPs? c) What proportion of executive committee bonuses for FY2020 were linked to the delivery of Unify/SMAX?		Written

230	SQ21-000543	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Meetings with CEPU	a) How many members of the NBN executive committee have met with the CEPU between 1 January 2021 and 1 May 2021? Please list the name of the executive committee member and the date.		Written
231	SQ21-000544	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - North Sydney office	<p>a) What are the lease terms on NBNCos new north Sydney office?</p> <p>b) When was the lease entered into?</p> <p>c) For how many years does it run? Can you confirm its 10?</p> <p>d) How many square metres of floor space does the office have? Can you confirm whether it's close to 21,000 square metres?</p> <p>e) What is the cost per square metre per year? Can you confirm whether it's close to \$800 net per square metre per year?</p> <p>f) Is the cost per square metre indexed at CPI over the life of the lease agreement?</p> <p>g) How many employees work out of North Sydney?</p> <p>h) What is the cost of the lease annually? Can you confirm its around \$160 million?</p> <p>i) What is the cost of the lease over its duration?</p>		Written
232	SQ21-000545	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Copper purchases to date	a) How many metres of new copper has NBN purchased to date?		Written
233	SQ21-000546	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Fixed wireless speeds	<p>a) How many fixed wireless towers had had a cell with a monthly busy hour cell performance of 25 Mbps or less in May 2021?</p> <p>b) How many fixed wireless towers had had a cell with a monthly busy hour cell performance of 20 Mbps or less in May 2021?</p>		Written
234	SQ21-000604	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Consultancy spend	a) Please list all consultancy contract engagements NBNCos has had dating back to January 2017 with consulting firm Alpha Beta.		Written

					<p>b) Please advise of the total cost of engagement between NBNCo and Alpha Beta. Please note, the cost of specific engagements has not been sought – rather the aggregate cost of all engagements between January 2017 and now.</p> <p>c) Please list all consultancy contract engagements NBNCo has had with Accenture since 1 February 2020 with consulting firm Accenture, as a result of Accenture acquiring Alpha Beta on 27 February 2020.</p> <p>d) Please advise of the total cost of engagement between NBNCo and Accenture in the context of the previous question. Please note, the cost of specific engagements has not been sought – rather the aggregate cost of all engagements between February 2020 and now.</p>		
235	SQ21-000548	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - UNIFY and SMAX	<p>a) Who were the delivery partners for the SMAX and unify systems/application? Broadly, this refers to the project which transformed NBNCo’s scheduling and technician workflow system, and is not limited to the system terminology above.</p> <p>b) What did the SMAX and unify system/application cost NBNCo to develop? Broadly, this refers to the project which transformed NBNCo’s scheduling and technician workflow system, and is not limited to the system terminology above.</p> <p>c) When was the unify project initially due to be delivered? When was it actually delivered?</p> <p>d) Did the project run over cost?</p> <p>e) When did NBN commence the project?</p>		Written

					<p>f) When was the system delivered to them? Please break down dates into components if needed.</p> <p>g) Is NBN now having to pay more money to modify and fix the system which has let down front line workers, retail providers, and end users?</p>		
236	SQ21-000549	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - 2013 NBN strategic review - costs	a) What did the 2013 NBN strategic review cost? b) What payment was made to the Boston Consulting Group? c) What payments were made to other consulting firms? d) Which partners in the Boston Consulting Group were involved in the report?		Written
237	SQ21-000550	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - bonuses	a) How much in bonuses did employees with a base salary of between \$150,000 to \$200,000 receive?		Written
238	SQ21-000551	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Spin about copper backflip	With reference to the response to QON 228 from Additional Estimates, in which NBNCo referenced the discredited Strategic review. a) Can NBN confirm page 101 of the Strategic Review said the cost of upgrading 3.6 million FTTN premises to FTTC would be \$2 billion? And if yes, why is the Morrison Government now spending \$3.2 billion to only connect 0.4 million premises with a fibre lead-in? Why are taxpayers now spending \$1.2 billion more, to upgrade 3.2 million fewer premises than what was stated in the Strategic review?		Written
239	SQ21-000552	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Redactions in the strategic review	a) Are any segments of the 2013 NBN Strategic Review redacted? b) What does the blacked out segment below from page 14 say? Why is this still secret? Please provide the relevant figures. c) What does the blacked out segment below from page 86 say? Why is this still secret? Please provide the relevant figures. d) What does the blacked out segment below from page 14 say? Why is this still secret? Please provide the relevant figures. e) What does the blacked out segment below from page 86 say? Why is this still secret? Please provide the relevant figures. f) What does the blacked out segment below from page 90 say? Why is this still secret? Please provide the relevant figures.		Written

240	SQ21-000553	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - More spin about copper backflip	With reference to the comments by NBN in QON 228 from additional estimates a) Is NBN aware that page 100 of the 2013 Strategic Review flagged a hypothetical FTTP upgrade to enable gigabit speeds would occur in calendar year 2030? b) Does the NBN CEO rely on the 2013 NBN strategic review, despite it being a thoroughly discredited document? c) What proportion of the FTTN network is currently more than five years old? d) What is the average connection duration of end users on the FTTN network? Please note, this is not referring to RFS at the start of the migration window, but the average timeframe FTTN premises, across the entire FTTN footprint, have been connected to the NBN.		Written
241	SQ21-000554	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Non answer - QON 242 - 300,000 Premises	Regarding the non-answer to QON242 from Additional Estimates, please answer each question from a) through to j) individually.		Written
242	SQ21-000555	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN - 2013 NBN strategic review - Scenario 2	a) What Cost per Premises for FTTP did Scenario 2 in the FTTP strategic review specifically assume?		Written
243	SQ21-000556	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN - 2013 NBN strategic review - Scenario 6	With reference to the comments by NBN in QON 228 from additional estimates: a) What cost per premises for FTTN did Scenario 6 in the NBN Strategic Review assume? And how does this compare to the Cost Per Premises now?		Written
244	SQ21-000540	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - Missed technician appointments	a) How many technician appointments did NBN miss in April 2021? b) How many technician appointments did NBN miss in May 2020? c) How many technician appointments did NBN make with RSPS, and then cancel, in May 2021?		Written
245	SQ21-000542	NBN Co Limited	Anne Urquhart	NBN Co - HFC modem replacements	a) How many HFC modems has NBNC Co replaced since 1 January 2020?		Written
246	SQ21-000343	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Louise Pratt	Office of the eSafety Commissioner - COVID-19	Senator PRATT: Would you be concerned in the context, though, that someone might feel restrained from contacting your office to have such material addressed if they feel that someone is in a powerful position of influence? Ms Inman Grant: Can you please reframe the question?	27/05/2021	87

				misinformation resources	<p>CHAIR: I think that's asking for an opinion.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So you don't have any specific resources on COVID-19 misinformation?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: I can take that on notice, but not that I recall. We've got a big website, but I don't think so. There is a 'fake news' quick read on Be Connected, our resources for seniors.</p>		
247	SQ21-000437	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Louise Pratt	Office of the eSafety Commissioner - Web-crawler software	<p>Senator PRATT: We had a number of quite specific questions about whether the software exists, whether there's existing industry capability, whether it will interact with third-party platforms on which intimate images might be shared and whether you're going to develop it or whether it's going to go out to tender- but it does sound like you won't have answers to those questions yet.</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: No, we'll need to scope all of that. When I have that information, we'd be happy to share it with you.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'll put those on notice and you will be able to take us through to the extent to which you've got answers to those questions.</p>	27/05/2021	84
248	SQ21-000438	Office of the eSafety Commissioner	Anne Urquhart	Office of the eSafety Commissioner - Stakeholder meeting in Brisbane	<p>Senator URQUHART: And can you tell me the purpose for which the commissioner was in Brisbane from 17 to 19 March? Again, the answer said 'stakeholder meetings'. Can you tell me what stakeholders?</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: I spent the entire day at the Australian Centre to Combat Child Exploitation. Obviously they're a close partner. We've just finished an MOU. We also met with the Queensland children's commissioner. We met with the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. I'm trying to remember who else we met with, but-</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: That's alright. If you want to provide it on notice-</p> <p>Ms Inman Grant: It had been 18 months since we'd been up in Brisbane. It was the first time we'd been to the ACCCE since it opened</p>	27/05/2021	91

249	SQ21-000325	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Louise Pratt	SBS - Cyber security arrangements for SBS	<p>Senator PRATT: How would you rate the current cybersecurity arrangements of SBS? And, in that context, are you compliant with the 'essential eight' strategies set out by the ASD-the Signals Directorate.</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I will take that specific question on notice. I know that in our most recent internal audit we were given the second-highest rating against the areas of cybersecurity that they tested. So, we got a good rating— ...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Very good-second highest. So, you'll have to take on notice whether you are compliant in those eight strategies. If you're not, perhaps you could take on notice which ones you're yet to implement. And can I ask what your annual budget allocation to cybersecurity is and whether this has decreased or increased year on year?</p> <p>Mr Taylor: I will take that on notice but it is certainly increasing.</p>	26/05/2021	107
250	SQ21-000361	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	SBS - preservation of language and culture	<p>1) Why is the SBS not trying to meet the original objective of the preservation of language and culture? 2) SBS no longer gather or show the cultural aspects from the communities in the bush, which was what made ICTV upon which NITV was founded so special. What percentage of content is based on Indigenous Australians? 3) With the push for plus 3% advertising revenue where will extra funds gained by NITV go? And how does this benefit the Aboriginal people who need real support?</p>		Written
251	SQ21-000362	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Bridget McKenzie	SBS - privacy policy	<p>1) In the SBS privacy policy section 8, "How we hold information and keep it secure" it states "SBS holds your personal information both electronically, on our own servers and those of our service providers, and in hard copy at our secured offices." a) Where are your servers? b) Who are SBS's 'services providers? Are they Australian owned and based? c) Do SBS use Tealium? d) Will you sell the data collected? If so, how much will you sell it for and who will you sell it to? e) Do taxpayers have to expressly request the SBS keep their personal data private? 2) How can the SBS require personal information be provided to access its On-Demand</p>		Written

					platform, when it has no need to pass this information on to any advertising clients? a) Why is it an opt-out system? Why not an opt-in system? b) When did the SBS On Demand require a compulsory log in? c) Why did the SBS make login in requirements compulsory? 3) Can you confirm that taxpayer's personal information cannot be shared with third-party tech platforms, such as Google and Facebook? 4) Did you conduct a survey with taxpayers to determine if they wanted a compulsory log in requirement for your On-Demand service? a) If so, who conducted this survey? b) What did the survey specifically ask? Can you please table the document? c) How much did it cost to carry out the survey? d) How many people responded to this survey? e) How many of the responses were from regional Australia?		
252	SQ21-000373	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Rachel Siewert	SBS - Gambling advertisements	<p>1. In light of the additional funding SBS will receive, and given Managing Director James Taylor's comments that the revenue provided to SBS by gambling advertisements is not significant, will the SBS be revising its position on broadcasting gambling advertisements?</p> <p>2. Will any of the additional funding for in language communications include culturally appropriate, in language content on gambling harm?</p> <p>3. Does the SBS permit advertisements from gambling companies on the National Indigenous Television Network (NITV)?</p> <p>4. Given that research has shown that people from migrant backgrounds are as, if not more, vulnerable to gambling harm as First Nations communities, what justification did SBS make to still broadcast gambling advertisements on the SBS?</p>		Written
253	SQ21-000505	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	SBS - Televised breaks	<p>1. In 2020, which programs were televised with breaks inserted by SBS in circumstances where, those programs when supplied to SBS in their original format had not been produced, assembled or compiled with provision for any commercial breaks, such as British Broadcasting Corporation programs or cinema-release movies etc.</p> <p>2. Please supply a list of all TV programs delivered to SBS with pre-</p>		Written

					existing breaks, aired in 2020; and a separate list of all programs delivered to SBS without pre-existing breaks, aired in 2020		
254	SQ21-000339	Screen Australia	Sarah Hanson-Young	Screen Australia - Producer offset	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Could you take this on notice, please. I'd like an estimate for how much extra the government will be spending with the changes to the offset, and what savings, if any, will be made with the changes to the offsets, for documentaries in particular.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes, I'll take that on notice</p>	27/05/2021	76
255	SQ21-000358	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Direction from Prime Minister on ABC Funding	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware, Minister, as to whether there's been any direction from the Prime Minister to make sure Mr Porter is recused from any decision-making process?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't confirm that. I'll have to take it on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	10
256	SQ21-000405	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Minister's meetings with broadcasting stakeholders	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Can you also take on notice if any requests were made from that station and whether they were declined or not? Has the minister met with representatives of subscription broadcasting or commercial broadcasting during the past two years?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: The details of that we'd have to take on notice.</p> <p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: You can't think of any off the top of your head?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: I've not been in any meetings the minister's had with those stakeholders. To get you an accurate answer I'd need to take it on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	42
257	SQ21-000406	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Meetings between Minister and Channel 31	<p>Senator MARIELLE SMITH: How many meetings has the minister had with Channel 31 in Melbourne in the past two years?</p> <p>Mr Windeyer: Again, we'd have to take that on notice.</p>	26/05/2021	42

258	SQ21-000407	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Meetings between Minister and Channel 44	Senator MARIELLE SMITH: Is it accurate that the minister has declined to meet with Channel 44 in Adelaide at least a dozen times in the past two years? Mr Windeyer: We'd have to take that on notice.	26/05/2021	42
259	SQ21-000408	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Marielle Smith	Minister's meetings regarding community and television broadcasting	Senator MARIELLE SMITH: I recently requested to meet the minister on this issue and had my request declined. How many other elected representatives has the minister declined to meet on the issue of community television and broadcasting? Ms Sullivan: I'd have to take that on notice. I'm not aware.	26/05/2021	42
260	SQ21-000485	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Mr Porter's legal costs	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Minister, has the government been briefed or informed as to how Mr Porter is covering these substantial legal costs? Senator Hume: These defamation proceedings that were brought on by Minister Porter are done in his personal capacity. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So Mr Porter hasn't briefed the government or ministers or the Prime Minister? Senator Hume: It's in his personal capacity. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has the Prime Minister asked as to how Mr Porter is paying this exorbitant bill? Senator Hume: I wouldn't know why he would. Obviously, it's a proceeding in Mr Porter's personal capacity. But I can take that question on notice.	7/06/2021	10
261	SQ21-000486	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Ministerial standards - Mr Porter's legal fees	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you been briefed in relation to the ministerial standards, Minister, as to what would be required if a minister took substantial money to pay for legal fees from a third party? Senator Hume: Senator, I'm sure you're aware of this, having done this yourself. You probably have- Senator HANSON-YOUNG: And I've disclosed it all on the public record with the parliament. So I'm just wondering what Mr Porter is doing.	7/06/2021	10

					<p>Senator Hume: I can't tell you. I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Are you aware as to whether there is any requirement in the ministerial standards for a disclosure of such a large amount of money being gifted to pay full legal fees?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't tell you that. I'll take it on notice. ... [p. 11]</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there any advice that ministers are given as to what the rules or process would be if you had legal fees paid for by somebody else? As a minister, have you received any briefing?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I have not received such advice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Do you know whether advice exists?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I don't. I can find out for you, Senator</p>		
262	SQ21-000494	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Jenny McAllister	Pulled Four Corners program; contact within the PM office	<p>Senator McALLISTER: On Saturday, Four Corners tweeted that it had contacted the PMO more than 20 times over the last month seeking answers to questions in connection with its QAnon program. Which of Mr Morrison's advisers contacted Mr Morris last Tuesday to discuss those questions sent to Mr Morrison's office?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't know that. I will need to confirm that on notice with you.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Does the minister know who from the Prime Minister's Office was in contact?</p> <p>Senator Hume: No, I can't tell you that, but I can take that on notice.</p>	7/06/2021	29
263	SQ21-000495	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Sarah Hanson-Young	Point of contact for concerns relating to programs	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just following on in relation to these matters-Mr Anderson, would it be the normal course that, if a minister or indeed staff within a minister's or the Prime Minister's office did have a concern about a particular story that was being worked on that they would go to Mr Morris first and foremost?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: My understanding is that that call happened with regard to the questions that were put to the PMO. In that instance, yes, it could be there is contact made. Outside of that, I don't</p>	7/06/2021	29

					<p>believe contact happens unless we're seeking a response to something.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You can't recall calls like that from the Prime Minister's Office or a minister's office to Mr Morris on a regular basis?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, not that Mr Morris has indicated, anyway, but I can confirm that on notice with you. I can tell you that I don't get calls from the Prime Minister's Office or the Prime Minister, for that matter.</p>		
264	SQ21-000501	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Jenny McAllister	Ms Buttrose misconduct	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Has Mr Morrison complained to Ms Buttrose about her conduct?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I'm not aware of any complaint.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Could you take it on notice whether or not Mr Morrison has made such a complaint?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Yes.</p>	7/06/2021	36
265	SQ21-000586	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Breakdown of RISE scheme jobs generated in Victoria	<p>Senator Hume: And the eight projects have generated nearly 3,000 jobs; \$8.7 million has gone to South Australia, supporting 21 different projects, and those 21 projects have generated nearly 15,000 jobs; and \$300,000 has gone to the ACT, supporting two different projects that have generated nearly 500 jobs.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can we go back to the Victorian figure?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Yes, 32.2—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: It has generated 26,000 jobs. What is that based on?</p> <p>Senator Hume: So \$32.2 million has gone to Victoria, and that supports 86 projects, and those 86 projects have generated nearly 26,000 jobs.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Can we get a breakdown of those jobs?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Yes, I can give you a breakdown. The applicants themselves have given the department those numbers.</p>	26/05/2021	19
266	SQ21-000587	Department of Infrastructure, Transport,	Louise Pratt	RISE fund application form question	<p>Senator PRATT: Yes. My follow-up is: what was the question on the application form that you asked to base those figures on? Did you simply ask something like: how many people does your</p>	26/05/2021	19

		Regional Development and Communications			organisation employ and how many people do other organisations that you're attached to employ? I ask how that figure is derived on the form. Mr Atkinson: We'll get that for you.		
267	SQ21-000583	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anne Urquhart	List of ABC Board advertising campaign were published	Senator URQUHART: Were the appointments of the three new board members announced by the minister on 17 May 2021 made in accordance with the nomination panel process set out in the ABC Act? Can I ask specifically around that? ... Senator URQUHART: Did the nomination panel invite written applications by advertisements published on the department's website and in one or more other forms? Ms Sullivan: Yes. Senator URQUHART: What were those other forms? Ms Sullivan: The department website. There was also a national advertising campaign. We could come back to you with the answers on where it was advertised but it was the usual major dailies and recruitment websites. I'll come back to you with a list if you'd like. Senator URQUHART: That would be great; thank you.	26/05/2021	20-21
268	SQ21-000588	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Samantha McMahon	Mobile coverage in the Northern Territory	Senator McMAHON: We have two coastal communities in the Northern Territory, Dundee Beach and King Ash Bay, that both do have Telstra mobile coverage, but both have severe issues with that coverage at the moment, with the geographic range of the signal being very, very small, and also not enough bandwidth. These communities are quite large communities and they also have extremely large influxes of tourists. Is there any plan that you know of to upgrade the mobile coverage in these communities? Mr Smurthwaite: It's not my understanding that they're part of the current announcements of the regional connectivity program but I would just like to double-check that because there are a number of communities that are benefiting indirectly from a fibre capacity upgrade. I'll just need to double-check. In relation to areas that have existing coverage, the regional connectivity program has	26/05/2021	52

					been the most recent addition to our suite of programs that we use to try and address those issues. We certainly have a second round of that. We've just recently announced round 1, which was in the order of 81 projects. A large number of those were indeed upgrades to capacity. It's not my understanding those two are in that list but let me just check for you. There will certainly be additional opportunities to undertake that type of work in those types of locations in the future.		
269	SQ21-000599	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	ABC - Number of licence submissions received from interested parties	<p>Senator PRATT: It might be convenient for broadcasters to say that they want to rationalise or use their licences in a particular way, but how many submissions have you received from the general public, from communities, from Australians interested in this? If you could take that on notice, please? And if you could take on notice what advertising you've done more broadly to communities as opposed to stakeholders? Why has the department proposed a carve-out from the proposed streaming—that is, SVOD—regulation for companies like Stan which are owned by business that also holds broadcasting licences? What policy justification could there possibly be for this?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: As outlined in the green paper, that aspect of the proposal countenances the fact that that company—Nine in this case—meets obligations in relation to Australian content on other services that it owns and controls. I would emphasise, as I said earlier, that these are proposals and that feedback is being sought on the various elements that were sketched in the green paper.</p> <p>CHAIR: Senator Pratt, have you got much?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I've just got a few last questions. On what page of the green paper is there a policy justification for this carve-out put forward? Did the minister, the department or ACMA put this carve-out forward and, if so, on what basis?</p> <p>Mr Penprase: I indicated before the general position that that</p>	26/05/2021	56

					proposal would have to support it. I just have to find the relevant page number.		
270	SQ21-000584	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Louise Pratt	ABC's obligations and their relation to other broadcasters	<p>Senator PRATT: Is the ABC's issue not only with your own obligations but also how they relate to obligations with other broadcasters?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I think you look at the industry as a whole, but I do worry about the ABC specifically.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Of course.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I can't speak on behalf of the whole industry, although I have an interest in it. I think what you want to ensure is that we continue to commission content from this country about this country for this country and have concern for losing what it is to be distinctly Australian, because you otherwise have international outfits doing it here for an international audience.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes, I've certainly noticed those trends as a viewer myself.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: My concerns extend to spectrum and, with regard to commercial, the possibility that commercial networks will determine the spectrum allocation for both ABC and SBS, but I also worry about prominence. Prominence is an issue both here and overseas. It's being tackled in the UK; also in Canada. And with proliferation of certainly of smart TVs that turn up with apps that are preloaded by the tech companies thinking that they will otherwise dictate to begin with, as a default setting, where you would go for content, it's a bit of a barrier for people then to be able to find what is freely available to them here in Australia. So, prominence is important. I can provide this on notice at some point, but I would like the department and the minister to see our submission first. In the UK Ofcom undertook a comprehensive review of this. So has CRTC in Canada. They are effectively putting obligations for prominence in their country when it comes to free-to-air television or ondemand, depending on the service. So they're some of the concerns that we have with the green paper. I</p>	26/05/2021	97-98

					will say, for the green paper, that we're offering solutions to this as well. So whether it's MPEG4 versus MPEG2, the spectrum or prominence, we're trying to be constructive in our response to help the sector in general, the department and the minister form a view.		
271	SQ21-000589	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Nita Green	RISE Fund recipients by location	<p>Senator GREEN: I think you may have been asked this question earlier, but can I just confirm how much has been paid out through the RISE Fund's recipients. I'm happy for you to take this on notice, but I'd also like a breakdown from the department on the location of the recipients—not by suburb, because I know that can be a bit difficult sometimes; I'd like to know the electorate of each recipient.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We wouldn't hold it on an electorate basis.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We certainly provide it on a state basis when we publish the locations of the—</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I know.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: We'd like to know the electorates, please.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: I'd like to know the electorates.</p> <p>Mr Atkinson: We don't hold it on an electorate basis.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can I ask, then, when you give a pile of these applications to the minister, are you asked to put them in a particular order—sift through them—or does the minister's office just get all of them? What work does the department undertake to consider the applications before they're handed on?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: We assess the applications as they come in, both for eligibility and for how good an application it is against the guidelines. Following those assessments, we provide a list to the minister of recommended projects in order of a score by the assessors.</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Perhaps we could get—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: The scoring criteria?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Could we get the suburbs? If not, we're going to have to—</p>	26/05/2021	109-110

					<p>Mr Atkinson: Postcode—</p> <p>Senator GREEN: Yes, postcode.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: So you just want a geocoded thing?</p> <p>Senator GREEN: So far what's been made public is the states, and that's fine. But you can understand that, after the situation with the sports grants and the need to understand where grants are now being provided, it would be helpful to understand if there's a good geographical spread of those grants as well. That's why we're asking you for postcodes at the very least, but electorates too if you can work that out.</p>		
272	SQ21-000590	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Louise Pratt	RISE Fund unsuccessful applicants notification	<p>Senator PRATT: To return to the question of unsuccessful applicants: we've been told that some applicants have been in contact with local MPs to say they didn't know their application had been unsuccessful until they found out in the media. How is that possible? Does the department acknowledge that, given many arts organisations have been struggling for funding in these uncertain times, a high level of uncertainty is really not an appropriate thing—particularly finding out in that way? Dr Arnott: I'm not aware of the instances you're referring to. Our usual process would be to advise unsuccessful and successful applicants so that people weren't finding out for the first time in the media.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Could you take that on notice? If you could do some looking into applicants finding out that they're unsuccessful through the media and why that's occurred, that would be terrific.</p>	26/05/2021	112
273	SQ21-000591	NBN Co Limited	Kimberley Kitching	NBN Co - remuneration committee consideration of pandemic in awarding bonuses	<p>Senator KITCHING: My question is: did the people in the remuneration committee consider the fact that Australia was in a pandemic when they were considering paying out \$77 million? Mr Rue: I hate to say this, I'm sorry, but that's actually a question for the chairman of the remuneration committee. It's not a question for me. Senator KITCHING: But you've been attending. Mr Rue: No, I was asked to leave during that discussion. If I could refer you, though— Senator KITCHING: No, but you would have been at the meeting and you will have known whether there was consideration</p>	27/05/2021	9-10

					<p>given— Mr Rue: I was asked to leave at that period of time, which is appropriate, by the way. Senator KITCHING: Do you have the minutes? Can we have the minutes? Can you table the minutes? Mr Rue: Again, I'll have to take that on notice, if you don't mind. Can I please refer you to the evidence of the chairman, who was here at the last committee? And, Senator Green, I think it was you—or one of you. Anyway, I asked him exactly that question and I think he responded. Senator KITCHING: I don't think it was exactly that question. Senator GREEN: It wasn't that question. We can go back and look at the Hansard. Mr Rue: If you could, please, Senator. Senator KITCHING: Could you take on notice whether you could provide the minutes of those meetings? Mr Rue: Of course.</p>		
274	SQ21-000592	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - process during tendering to ensure fair and legal payment	<p>Senator SHELDON: Thank you, Chair. Does NBN employ a process during its tendering process to ensure that its delivery partners are able to pay their workforce fairly and legally? Ms Dyer: Yes, we do. Throughout our contracting, our RFP process, we do go through a very— Senator SHELDON: Can I ask you to take that on notice? Senator Hume: Chair, come on; please allow the witnesses to answer the questions put to them. Senator SHELDON: I asked the witness to take it on notice. I appreciate that the chair has said that we'll go a little bit over time, but there are quite a few matters. I just want to ascertain whether you have a system. Ms Dyer: Yes, of course we do.</p>	27/05/2021	19
275	SQ21-000593	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - auditing primes	<p>Senator SHELDON: Do you audit primes? Mr Rue: I'll have to take that on notice. Let me just check that. Senator SHELDON: Ms Dyer, you're head of the auditing and accountability process. You said you've got a robust system. I've obviously got a question about how robust it is, but you've stood by that being a robust system. Can you audit primes? Ms Dyer: We'll come back to you in relation to, I guess, our investigative powers in relation to our contract with the delivery</p>	27/05/2021	31-32

					<p>partners.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: So you don't know? Is what you're saying to me at this point—I appreciate you're taking it on notice—at this point you don't know?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Let me take your specific question. The reason is that we have a right to audit against any terms in the contract. So it depends what's in the contract. That's why I'm taking it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Have you audited a prime before? And if so, how many?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'll have to take that on notice. One of my team may have the answer for you.</p>		
276	SQ21-000585	Classification Board	Louise Pratt	Classification - Provision of the Stevens review	<p>Senator PRATT: In that context, you look for the characteristics that belong to a particular video game or movie, and you see if they meet the criteria for classification in a particular direction. Is the research relevant or irrelevant to you?</p> <p>Ms Bickerstaff: We haven't had recent research. However, research is relevant to us when we are looking at particular sensitivities in the community.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: You draw on research in terms of particular harms or sensitivities, so, as culture changes, the characteristics and the way you classify them might change.</p> <p>Ms Bickerstaff: The board applies the current legislation in the code and the guidelines. As you are aware, there's a review, the Stevens review, to which the board did make a submission. That's publicly available. I'm happy to provide you with a copy of that.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Thank you.</p>		106
277	SQ21-000594	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	James Paterson	Ms Neighbour liking a tweet by the Shovel	<p>Senator PATERSON: Mr Anderson, are you familiar with the satirical news website the Shovel?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No, I am not.</p> <p>Senator PATERSON: It's an amusing, humorous website often with quite acerbic content and an associated Twitter account. It sent a tweet on 1 June in relation to these matters. It has swearwords in</p>	7/06/2021	17

					<p>it that I'll bleep out: Imagine being the chief law officer and f'ing up your own defamation case. It'd be a bit like being the Health Minister and f'ing up a major vaccine rollout ... oh wait.' Among the many likes for that tweet was Ms Neighbour. Is it appropriate for the executive producer of Four Corners to like a tweet reflecting on the chief law officer and the Health Minister in that way?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Again, I'd have to have a look at what you mentioned.</p>		
278	SQ21-000595	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	Clarification on 'mediation and related costs'	<p>Senator SMALL: I'm confused by the fact here this morning you've both been very clear about the use of the word 'mediation and related costs'. But the statement that the Australian people look at only refers to 'mediation cost'. Do you accept that that is confusing?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: We will take a look at that.</p> <p>Senator SMALL: Thank you. That would be appreciated.</p>	7/06/2021	24
279	SQ21-000596	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Benjamin Small	Future budget for independent production content	<p>Senator SMALL: ... Finally, I turn to content quotas. Previously, I believe the ABC has represented these as a potential incursion into the independence of the ABC. Would you, though, acknowledge that commercial broadcasters in Australia do have content obligations, including with respect to regional news obligations, and yet still maintain full independence from government?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: The position that we've taken with regard to content quotas is with regard to operational independence in that to have a quota would otherwise, if you like, dictate our spend to a certain outcome. The requirement on commercial operators is so they actually spend money with the independent production sector, and that's not a problem that is seen at the ABC. In the last five years we've spent nearly \$500 million in the independent production sector and generated almost a billion dollars worth of spend in that production sector, because money comes from other places, whether it be state or federal screen authorities, the ATO, et cetera. We spend more than the rest combined. We don't have the spend issue which otherwise you would need a content quota</p>	7/06/2021	34-35

					to drive. We've got that. We fully intend to keep doing it. It's a question of budget, it's not a question of intent. In fact, one could argue that to fulfil our charter we need to keep spending what we're spending between internally and the independent sector. I don't see it as an obligation of putting a volume output on this, considering all of other moving parts we've got. That's why our contention is that, if you want more, if you provide more funding that otherwise would go to the independent production sector, matched by money from other places, that is one solution to help drive the sector and to put more money into it. We'll keep going the way that we are. We've given an undertaking to provide information on how much we've spent per annum in the last five years for the independent production sector, and we have budgeted that into the future as well. Of course, I'm happy to provide that information as well for what we have as a future budget and for the budget that we can see at the moment.		
280	SQ21-000569	NBN Co Limited	Claire Chandler	NBN Co - personal leave for gender reassignment	Does NBN Co offer an additional 20 days paid sick leave for employees undertaking gender affirmation or gender reassignment?		Written
281	SQ21-000570	NBN Co Limited	Claire Chandler	NBN Co - Additional paid sick leave for life-threatening conditions	Are employees who require major surgery or have chronic illnesses or life-threatening conditions such as cancer also entitled to 20 days of additional paid sick leave?		Written
282	SQ21-000582	Australian Postal Corporation	Malcolm Roberts	Australia Post - engagement with LPO stakeholder groups	Have you engaged with all LPO stakeholder groups, who and when, by what medium and how often since the termination of Ms Holgate?		Written
283	SQ21-000568	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional	Louise Pratt	Assumptions underpinning the NBN equity valuation in the	Regarding the assumptions underpinning the NBN equity valuation in the most recent annual report: 1) What valuation assumptions did the Department originally present to the ANAO?		Written

		Development and Communications		msot recent annual report	<p>2) How were these assumptions developed? If external advice or modelling was sought, please provide the AusTender contract notice ID, including the date when the Department received a report or deliverable from that arrangement</p> <p>3) Which valuation assumptions were changed following discussion with the ANAO?</p> <p>4) What discount rate was adopted?</p> <p>5) What original valuation output was produced by the Department, and what did it change to after the ANAO applied their audit tests?</p> <p>Regarding the assumptions underpinning the NBN equity valuation in the most recent annual report:</p>		
284	SQ21-000571	Australian Broadcasting Corporation	Anthony Sheldon	ABC show - Exposed: The Ghost Train Fire	<p>1. With respect to the ABC show Exposed: The Ghost Train Fire, how much funding was allocated and expensed for each of the following costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Research/investigation-related costs b. Production costs c. Any other costs <p>2. With respect to the segment of Exposed that focused on allegations made against former NSW Premier Neville Wran:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How much money was allocated to researching and producing this segment of the show? b. How many hours of research were conducted to inform this segment? c. How many people were involved in the research of this segment? d. How many primary sources were consulted for this segment, and who or what were they? <p>3. For Questions 2A, 2B and 2C, please advise how this compares</p>		Written

					<p>to the money, hours and number of people who were involved in the broader show.</p> <p>4. What due diligence and ethics approvals processes were conducted around the allegations concerning former Premier Wran?</p> <p>5. How many people were the allegations concerning former Premier Wran cross-checked with?</p> <p>6. How many people verified the content of the tapes which formed the basis of the allegations concerning former Premier Wran, and who?</p>		
285	SQ21-000572	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - SMAX app changing rates	<p>1. At Budget Estimates, Ms Dyer said with respect to technician and subcontractor rates changing following the implementation of the SMAX app: "In some instances they have gone up; in others, they have gone down or changed, depending on the work activity." Please advise what specific rates have declined or changed as a result of, contemporaneous to, or subsequent to, the implementation of the SMAX app.</p> <p>2. Please advise the amount of money that NBN Co. believes it will save through this changing and/or reduction of rates.</p>		Written
286	SQ21-000573	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - assurance and review of subcontractor technician payments	<p>3. At Budget Estimates, Ms Dyer took on notice numerous questions regarding payments to technicians and/or subcontractors by BSA being cut for FTTN, FTTC and FTTB activations, and for the installation or removal of distribution-point units, and for the installation of underground lead-in cables. Please advise what steps, if any, the NBN takes to ensure that its Delivery Partners and/or Primes are paying subcontractors and technicians appropriately.</p> <p>4. At Budget Estimates, Ms Dyer said with respect to the review of payment cuts for subcontractors and technicians, that, "we are doing this exercise with an external body. It is not people sitting at NBN doing it; we have asked for an external person to look at it, and to look at it not just on a piece of paper, but at what it means</p>		Written

					<p>in the field and whether you are comparing like with like there and whether there are other offsetting arrangements going the other way.”</p> <p>Ms Dyer later added: “The specific scope and the briefing that I have given to the auditors that are doing this is that I want line-of-sight traceability from the original contracts and the actual work activity.”</p> <p>Please advise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What external body and/or person has been engaged by the NBN to conduct this review. b. When the review will be completed c. Whether this Review will be shared with the Committee or otherwise published or made available d. Whether the review will include consultation with the relevant Unions, including the CEPU e. Whether the review will include direct consultation with technicians and subcontractors f. Whether the review will consider whether rates are being appropriately passed on to technicians, or being excessively absorbed by Delivery Partners and/or Primes g. Whether the review will confirm what proportion of fees paid by the NBN for service delivery actually flow through to the technician/subcontractor performing the service. 		
287	SQ21-000574	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - proportion and cost of Delivery Partners and contractor payments	<p>5. In the most recent financial year, how much in dollar figures, and what proportion, of rates paid by NBN Co have flowed to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Delivery Partners b. Prime Contractors c. Subcontractors excluding those ultimately performing the actual service d. The subcontractor/technician performing the actual service <p>6. In the most recent financial year, how much money did the NBN</p>		Written

					pay Delivery Partners (excluding money the NBN paid for the purposes of being paid through to subcontractors).		
288	SQ21-000575	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - contracts and declarations of subcontractor payments	<p>7. At Budget Estimates, Mr Rue said: "The NBN's contract with our delivery partners clearly states that they must pay their subcontractors."</p> <p>If this term is consistent across the NBN's contracts with all its delivery partners, please provide the exact term regarding the payment of subcontractors.</p> <p>If this term is not consistent across the NBN's contracts with all its delivery partners, please provide every variation of the term regarding the payment of subcontractors in those contracts.</p> <p>8. At Budget Estimates, Mr Rue said: "In every invoice that they [Delivery Partners] send to the NBN, they've got to make a declaration as to how they are paying and treating their workforce."</p> <p>a. By workforce, is Mr Rue only referring to the Delivery Partner's own employees, or does the declaration Mr Rue referred to also concern the payment and treatment of the Delivery Partner's subcontractors?</p> <p>b. If the answer to the above question is yes, it does extend to subcontractors, does that declaration extend to every subcontractor in their supply chain, or only to their Prime contractor?</p> <p>c. Please provide a copy of the declaration that the NBN requires Delivery Partners to make in their invoices to the NBN</p>		Written
289	SQ21-000576	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - supply chain tiers	9. Is there a limit on the number of tiers or levels in the NBN supply chain that the NBN will permit? And if not, what is the greatest number of levels of subcontracted tiers, including the Delivery Partner, Prime Subcontractor, and intermediary subcontractors down to the technician actually performing the work, that the NBN is aware of in its supply chain?		Written

290	SQ21-000577	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - rate of service calculations	<p>10. At Budget Estimates, Ms Dyer said: "In our RFP process, we would give a description of the activity and the expected outcome to the delivery partner; and we would ask them, in their considered industry experience, to consider those things in the rates that they give back to us to perform the activity."</p> <p>To confirm, the NBN in its RFP process does not calculate a rate for the service, it relies entirely upon the advice of the delivery partner?</p> <p>a. If the NBN does not calculate a rate, how does the NBN ensure that the rate is adequate for the technician or subcontractor to recover their capital costs, labour costs and expenses?</p> <p>b. If the NBN does calculate a rate, what is the formula the NBN uses for that calculation?</p>		Written
291	SQ21-000578	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - delivery partner and prime skim rate	<p>11. Does the NBN monitor, audit or have any knowledge of the rate that delivery partners and primes skim from the rate the NBN pays, which it has been reported is as high as 30% each?</p>		Written
292	SQ21-000579	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - delivery partner audits since 2010	<p>12. At Budget Estimates, Mr Rue "We haven't changed the model. The model has existed since 2010 when NBN was first created." Mr Rue also said that the NBN has the right to audit its delivery partners if concerns are raised by subcontractors.</p> <p>a. Please advise how many delivery partners the NBN has audited since 2010.</p> <p>b. Please advise whether the NBN is able to audit Primes, and if so, how many the NBN has audited since 2010.</p> <p>c. Please advise what the nature of the concerns which led to the audits were (eg. Payment issues, clawbacks, unfair contract terms, sham contracting, terminations, etc.)</p> <p>d. Please advise the findings of the audits referred to in the above questions.</p> <p>e. Please advise the outcomes of the audits referred to in the above questions, including whether the delivery partners or primes which were subject to adverse findings by the audits are still used by the NBN.</p>		Written

293	SQ21-000580	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - requirements for delivery partners	13. What criteria and requirements does the NBN use when determining whether to work with or appoint a Delivery Partner? 14. What accreditations does the NBN require its Delivery Partners to have?		Written
294	SQ21-000581	NBN Co Limited	Anthony Sheldon	NBN Co - delivery partner gifts and benefits	15. Does the NBN have a policy on accepting monetary or non-monetary gifts, services, trips, meals or any other benefit from a Delivery Partner or prospective Delivery Partner, and if so, please provide that Policy to the Committee. a. Additionally, if so, how does the NBN ensure compliance with the Policy?		Written
295		Australian National Audit Office	Sarah Hanson-Young	Referrals made to the ANAO that relate to the communications portfolio	Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Ms Jago, thanks for being here today. I have referred to the ANAO the issue of the \$40 million that the government has given to Foxtel. Can you give us an update on that? Have any other referrals been made that relate to the communications department? Ms Jago: Yes, Senator, we received your letter dated 21 April. The Auditor-General provided a response on 17 May advising that we were considering that topic as part of our planning for our annual audit work program for the 2021-22 year. We are currently in the middle of that process, so we are considering that topic as part of that program. We will finalise that program in the first week of July, we expect, and that is when it will become public. So it is still under active consideration by our office. In terms of whether we have had other requests for audits in the communications portfolio, I will have to double-check. I don't believe we have recently. Senator HANSON-YOUNG: I am happy for you to take that on notice.	26/05/2021	30-31
296		Australian National Audit Office	Louise Pratt	Assumptions in the NBN Co forecasts	Senator PRATT: I asked before about controls that ANAO applied to screen for any misleading forecasts. You said that you did challenge a number of those assumptions. Has NBN Co, therefore, changed its assumptions that generate those figures for future figures?	26/05/2021	34

					<p>Ms Jago: I'll just clarify that it was the department of infrastructure's assumptions.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Jago: There were some assumptions that changed through the audit process.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Can you please take on notice the change in those assumptions and how the change in value was derived for each of those values?</p> <p>Ms Jago: The department of infrastructure may be best placed to give you that information since some of that is actually their information.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay.</p> <p>Ms Jago: I can take it on notice, but they would be best placed to answer that.</p>		
297	SQ21-000602	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Jenny McAllister	Whether Mr Fletcher has made a complaint to Ms Buttrose regarding her behaviour	<p>Senator McALLISTER: Can you take it on notice whether Mr Fletcher has made such a complaint?</p> <p>Senator Hume: Yes.</p> <p>Senator McALLISTER: Thank you.</p>	7/06/2021	36
298	SQ21-000601	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Reporting requirements to parliament - legal fees	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Is there any requirement for Mr Porter to report to the parliament if somebody else is paying his legal fees?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I do not believe that there is, Senator, but I will entirely take that on notice and find out for you</p>	7/06/2021	10
299	SQ21-000603	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications	Sarah Hanson-Young	Number of times the Prime Minister's Office has made contact with Mr Morris	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Minister, how frequently would the Prime Minister's Office call Gaven Morris?</p> <p>Senator Hume: I can't answer that question.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But you're here representing the government, not just your own view, and I've asked you. Could you take that on notice, please? I'd like to know how many times over the last 12 months the Prime Minister's Office has been in contact</p>	7/06/2021	29

					with Mr Morris. Senator Hume: I can take that on notice.		
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