

Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network

Answers to Questions on Notice

Committee hearing 15 August 2018

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 1

Department of Communications and the Arts

Topic: Privatisation

Senator Jordon Steele-John asked:

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Could I just follow up on that one point? You said you haven't undertaken any detailed work. Have you undertaken work of any kind in this area?

Mr Mrdak: Only very preliminary. I'll check with my officers.

Mr Windeyer: There's a lot of work that we're doing that no doubt will relate to the reviews when they occur, but we haven't done any work that is specifically related to privatisation.

Senator STEELE-JOHN: Would you be able to get back to the committee with a summary—just to double-check and give us a summary of any work you have undertaken in relation to this question. Just to be very clear.

Mr Windeyer: We can certainly come back.

Mr BRIAN MITCHELL: If that submission could also include who has requested the preliminary work and the details as Senator Steele-John mentioned.

Mr Windeyer: Certainly. I can confirm that we haven't engaged or sought any external advisers or assistance associated with preparation for privatisation.

Answer:

The *NBN Companies Act 2011* has provided for the future privatisation of NBN Co Limited since it received Royal Assent in 2011. The Department can confirm that it has not engaged or sought any external advisers or assistance associated with preparation for privatisation. However, business planning documents reflect that the Department anticipates it will be required to undertake work in relation to NBN Co Limited privatisation in the coming years, consistent with the Act.