



THE SENATE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

28 February 2014

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Minister for Communications
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Answers to Questions on Notice outstanding

I write in regards to questions taken on notice and in writing by NBN Co and the Department of Communications at public hearings held by the Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network on 28 November, 29 November, 11 December and 17 December 2013.

The committee is concerned that NBN Co and the Department have not responded to most of the questions, and notes that the due dates set by the committee for the return of answers have now passed by some weeks. This is an unsatisfactory situation which is hindering the committee's inquiry.

Of the questions taken on notice at the hearings on 28 and 29 November, seven are still outstanding. The date set for the return of answers was 11 December 2013.

The committee has received only 14 answers to 43 of the questions taken on notice by the Department and NBN Co at the 11 December hearing. The date set for the return of answers was 31 January 2014.

At the 17 December hearing, Dr Switkowski undertook to provide answers by 24 January. To date the committee has not received any answers to the 9 questions on notice and a further 38 questions put to NBN Co in writing.

The committee has an important task in relation to the various reviews of NBN Co, and is assisted by timely access to information sought through placing questions on notice. The committee expects that when an officer of the Department or an executive of NBN Co take questions on notice, answers will be provided promptly or an explanation provided for any delays.

In light of these delays, I would appreciate if all remaining answers could be forwarded to the secretariat as a matter of urgency.

A copy of this letter has been forwarded to Executive Chairman of NBN Co, Dr Switkowski, and to the Secretary of the Department of Communications, Mr Drew Clarke.

Yours sincerely

Senator the Hon Kate Lundy

Chair

Senate Select Committee on the National Broadband Network