

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings March 2015

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 71

Program: 1.1

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Topic: Vertigan Review

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Somewhere around January or February.

Mr Robinson: I believe so, but I should take it on notice.

Senator URQUHART: I thought it was December 2013.

Mr Clarke: Could you state again the question?

Senator URQUHART: When did the minister announce that he would form a panel of experts to do a review into the regulatory arrangements surrounding the NBN, including new developments?

Mr Robinson: I think I should correct my answer. I meant the first part of 2014. It was an election commitment of the new government to undertake a review of regulatory arrangements and, of course, they were elected in September 2013. The announcement I will take on notice, but I believe it was early in 2014.

Answer:

The Minister appointed a panel of experts to undertake a review of the regulatory arrangements for the National Broadband Network on 12 December 2013.

The panel commenced its review work with the release of a Regulatory Issues Framing Paper on 13 February 2014. The paper is available at:

http://www.communications.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/240765/11._Regulatory_Issues_Framing_Paper.pdf. Amongst other issues, the paper canvassed the provision of infrastructure in new developments.