

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 287

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Strategic Review

Senator Urquhart asked:

Referring to Section 6.1 of the Strategic Review:

- a. Section 6.1 of the Strategic Review is headed Immediate Steps. Is it reasonable to expect that in the almost six months since the Strategic Review report was prepared that you should be making significant progress on these?
- b. Section 6.1.1 says “engage with the Government” which includes the need for a revised SOE. Does the SOE issued in April give the company all the guidance it needs?
- c. The section also refers to the CBA and Regulatory Review. Will the company require both the outcomes of that review and the government response – especially on regulation – to finalise a Corporate Plan? [If NO how can you decide what to do about TPG without indications of regulatory outcomes? If YES has the Government provided you with advice on when the review and Government response to the review will be available?]
- d. Is the draft Corporate Plan already provided to the Government based on a complete area-by-area analysis of technology choice?

Answer:

- a. Yes. NBN Co is making significant progress in these areas. For example, the transformation agenda within NBN Co is well underway, technology trials have commenced and the Fixed Wireless and Satellite Review has been completed.
- b. Yes. The SOE provides NBN Co with the flexibility to progress the rollout and also contains provisions for extra guidance and engagement with government on issues as they arise.
- c. There are a number of ongoing dependencies—such as the negotiations with Telstra, negotiations with Optus, and the outcomes of the Vertigan Review—that will be required for long-term planning and forecasting.
- d. There are a number of ongoing dependencies that still need to be resolved before negotiations with Telstra, such as the technology choice for each area can be finalised. See answer to part C above.