

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 521**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 46 (29/5/2014)**

**Topic: Equity funding**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator Urquhart:** I will go through the question again because I am not sure that you understood it. Is it not extremely misleading for the minister to have made this claim immediately below a claim that the government was merely reducing equity funding by less than \$1 billion?

**Senator Fifield:** Chair, I do not think it is reasonable to ask an officer to express a view in relation to comments by a minister.

**CHAIR:** I think that is fair enough.

**Senator Urquhart:** The issue is that the minister made the claim that the government was merely reducing equity funding by less than \$1 billion. Is that correct?

**Mr Robinson:** Yes.

**Senator Urquhart:** Would you like to have a go at answering that, Minister, given you do not think it is fair that I ask the officer?

**Senator Fifield:** The officer is asked factual questions. I will leave commentary to you, Senator Urquhart.

**Senator Urquhart:** I am asking you that question.

**Senator Fifield:** Well, I will take your question on notice. Let me say that Minister Turnbull never misleads. But if you have specific questions, we will take them on notice.

**Answer:**

The Strategic Review found that \$72.6 billion in peak funding would be required in order to continue the NBN rollout on previous rollout plans. This included the assumption of \$30.4 billion in Government equity.

The recommended multi-technology mix described in Scenario 6 of the Strategic Review assumed a cap on equity at \$29.5 billion (as per the Government's pre-election policy commitment) and found that under this model, peak funding would reduce by approximately \$32 billion.