

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: 544

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Independent cost-benefit analysis and review of regulation

Senator Urquhart asked:

In reference to the *Independent cost-benefit analysis and review of regulation*:

- a. Is Mr Ergas, a well known conservative commentator who has previously written on the NBN, more or less “independent” than Peter Harris, the Chair of the Productivity Commission? Why did the Government not request the Productivity Commission undertake the CBA as initially announced?

Answer:

- (a) Governments have a range of options in terms of commissioning advice on policy issues. In this case the Government considered an independent expert panel of four people that brought significant relevant background, expertise and experience provided the most independent, robust and transparent process.