

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: 558

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: NBN Co transparency

Senator Urquhart asked:

At the hearing the Secretary was asked “NBN Co did not directly answer the question of why NBN Co is less transparent in its data than Telstra is, for example. I would like to know if the department has raised this with NBN Co in relation to NBN Co's approach to data transparency?” In reply the Secretary replied “Did NBN Co accept the proposition that they were less transparent than Telstra?” The Department’s attention is drawn to the answer to QoN 80 from Additional Estimates and in particular sub-question (e). What is the Secretary’s interpretation of the answer in relation to the question asked at the hearing?

Answer:

The Department of Communications notes that Telstra Corporation Limited (Telstra) and NBN Co Limited (NBN Co) publicly provide a range of information on their websites regarding their networks and availability of services.

The Department of Communications supports the increased transparency measures implemented by NBN Co including publishing rollout progress information weekly on its website and providing public presentations of its quarterly financial and operational results. The Department notes NBN Co’s response to Question on Notice 80 from the 2013-14 Additional Estimates hearing in February 2014 which indicated that it was not currently posting some information on its website until such time as it has increased confidence in some forecasts.

The Department supports NBN Co’s recent changes to its rollout maps to display communities in the fixed-line footprint where “Build Preparation” is taking place.