Question No: 577

Program No. 1.2

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Office of Spatial Policy

An article in The Australian of 4 June headed 'NBN roll out plagued with issues' includes the assertion 'For at least four King Street businesses, a major stumbling block has been the inability of Telstra to match the NBN address data, especially when it relates to strata title property or where there are multiple business tenants in the one building.'

Senator Urquhart asked: Has the issue of mismatching address data between Telstra and NBN Co been raised with the Department? Will the transfer of the Office of Spatial Policy to the Department mean the alignment of national address databases becomes a Department responsibility?

Answer: Through discussions with NBN Co and Telstra the Department is aware that there are challenges faced in acquiring accurate address information.

National address databases consist of information acquired and owned by local and state government agencies as the data custodians of address information within their jurisdiction. The accuracy and quality of the data is also their responsibility.

The Department does not have responsibility for the alignment of national address databases, however, it does provide a leadership role in helping to achieve higher quality address information through its policy role, through ANZLIC the Spatial Information Council, and as a shareholder of PSMA Australia Ltd. The Department works in collaboration with several agencies and organisations to achieve this. These organisations include NBN Co, Telstra and Australia Post.

Employees from the former Office of Spatial Policy now undertake those same duties within the Spatial Policy Branch of the Department. In addition they also work on open data and big data issues in collaboration with other government agencies.