

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 111

Program No. nbn

Hansard Ref: Written, 10/7/2015

Topic: NBN Co.'s headline forecasts

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

During the budget estimates hearing in May 2015, when asked if he would disclose NBN Co's headline forecasts—specifically NBN Co's headline cost, revenue and rollout forecasts—Mr Bill Morrow said “it would be my choice not to, and to rely on the government to do so.” Later in the hearing, the following exchange took place:

Senator CONROY: *You have made it clear, Mr Morrow. You said, 'Even if I was not directed by the minister I still would not provide this information.'*

Mr Morrow: *To the general public. Of course there is certain information that is going to change so, no, I would not provide that just generally to the public. I can tell you I have run publicly traded companies and privately owned companies and I have never released that kind of information to the general public.*

- a. NBN Co's 2014-17 Corporate Plan repeats the headline forecasts from the Strategic Review. These are set out in Exhibit 9-5 Financial Assumptions from Strategic Review Scenario 6 (MTM) on page 49. Please list all headline forecasts—in particular, those forecasts set out in Exhibit 9-5 of the 2014-17 Corporate Plan—that have been issued by NBN Co since the Strategic Review, 18 months ago.
- b. During the budget estimates hearing, Mr Morrow said: “[the] strategic review is old news for us; it is the new plan that we are moving forward on.” Is it correct to say that Mr Morrow has said that the Strategic Review is no longer an accurate reflection of how NBN Co intends to invest taxpayer money?
- c. Does Mr Morrow understand that the “shareholder Ministers” perform their role on behalf of the Australian public?
- d. What information does NBN Co believe the Australian public needs to know to understand how NBN Co is planning to invest the \$29.5 billion in equity that taxpayers are providing for the NBN?

Answer:

- a. Since the Strategic Review, the only headline forecasts that have been issued are those included in the 2014-17 Corporate Plan. This document is publicly available on the **nbn**TM website.
- b. The Strategic Review 2013 reflected **nbn**'s investment intentions at that time. Since that time, significant further planning has occurred and a new plan has been drafted. This new plan is what nbn intends to move forward on.
- c. Yes.
- d. **nbn** and its officers provide, and will continue to provide, the Australian public with information about its investment plans in line with its reporting obligations.