

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 5**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 8-9, 27/05/2015**

**Topic: Mobile Black Spot Programme**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** So before 30 June; that could be any time between now and the end of June.

**Mr Clarke:** Correct.

**Senator URQUHART:** So it could be any time. You do not have a definitive date?

**Mr Clarke:** I am not at liberty to be more precise than that.

**Senator URQUHART:** Does the government plan to increase funding for the program?

**Mr Clarke:** That is a matter for government; I cannot comment on it.

**Senator URQUHART:** So is that part of the announcement?

**Mr Clarke:** Again, that is a question that only the government can answer.

**Senator URQUHART:** Do you know that, Senator Fifield?

**Senator Fifield:** I do not have knowledge of that, but you probably would not expect me to either, Senator.

**Senator URQUHART:** I thought you may have done, seeing that you are representing the minister.

**Senator Fifield:** At another time I will explain to you the role of a minister representing the minister and the degree to which the minister representing the minister is not involved in the budget process of a particular portfolio.

**Senator URQUHART:** We will look forward to that.

**Senator Fifield:** I can talk to you at great length about aged care, disability and disability employment budget processes; but I am not, as the minister representing the minister, involved in those processes. Obviously we are, again, very happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Government announced on 25 June 2015 the successful locations to receive a mobile base station under round 1 of the Mobile Black Spot Programme.

A further \$60 million has been committed by the Government for round 2 of the programme.