

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates May 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 218**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: Page 114-115**

**Topic: Senate Privileges Committee Report**

**Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:**

**Senator DASTYARI:** Mr Morrow, I assume that the dates of your board meetings are on the public record.

**Mr Morrow:** I am not sure.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Well, they retrospectively are, in your annual reports, I assume.

**Ms Keisler:** Yes.

**Senator DASTYARI:** They are?

**Ms Keisler:** Your attendance, yes.

**Mr Rue:** Not the dates; the number.

**Senator DASTYARI:** I cannot see why this would be something you would not be able to provide on notice. I will give you the opportunity to provide it on notice if you are able to: the date at which the board met and was briefed on this matter after the issuance of the Senate report.

...

**Senator DASTYARI:** Roughly monthly but not necessarily. Ms Keisler or Mr Morrow, obviously I am aware of the date that the Senate report was issued; are you able to take on notice when was the regular next board meeting at which this matter was discussed? And, Ms Keisler, would I be correct in saying that that statement was issued roughly at the same time as you were given the request from the media for comment, which would have been the same time as the issuance of the Senate report?

**Ms Keisler:** Correct. I believe it was the day after the release of the report.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Sure, and you are saying your team drafted the statement?

**Ms Keisler:** Correct.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Mr Morrow, did you approve that statement?

**Mr Morrow:** I did.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Did the chairman approve the statement?

**Mr Morrow:** No.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Was it shared with the chairman?

**Mr Morrow:** No. It was, of course, at the time that we released it, but, no, it was not a pre-approved issue from the board.

**Senator DASTYARI:** When you say 'at the time at which you released it'—

**Mr Morrow:** It goes public.

**Senator DASTYARI:** So, if it was public, he would have seen it publicly, but it did not go to Mr Switkowski to tick off on or approve or—

**Mr Morrow:** That is correct.

**Senator DASTYARI:** But the report did go to him?

**Mr Morrow:** Yes.

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**Senator DASTYARI:** And the question you are not quite sure about and you are taking on notice is—was the report itself presented to the board members as part of the board papers or was just a briefing given?

**Mr Morrow:** Again, as I said, the report itself went to the chairman. The chairman may have in fact sent it to on to the other board members. That is the report itself. At the board meeting, there was a discussion and a briefing about that report.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Was a copy of the report provided as part of the board papers?

**Mr Morrow:** I do not recall.

**Senator DASTYARI:** Can you take that on notice?

**Mr Morrow:** Sure, we can take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The report was circulated to all Board members on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017 after it became public.