

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Budget Estimates Spill-over Hearing June 2017**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 349**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 27/06/2017**

**Topic: 2013 Strategic Review – Lack of Transparency**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

In reference to the response to QON360 from Additional Estimates:

**NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 31/03/2017**

**Topic: 2013 Strategic Review – ongoing lack of transparency**

**Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:**

Program 1.1 Hansard Ref: Written, 31/10/2016 Topic: NBN Strategic Review Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. Page 14 of the 2013 NBN Strategic Review contains the following segment:

*“Construction costs for an FTTN network in Australia would be in the order of [redacted] per premises, including the proactive copper remediation of up to [redacted] percent of lines in the FTTN footprint.”*

Given the passage of time can the redacted segments be provided? If the Department considers it cannot, please provide reasons.

The Government responded:

*“No, the redacted segments cannot be provided because they are nbn’s commercial-in-confidence information”*

Can NBN Co advise why it considers that information to be commercial in confidence?

**Answer:**

To provide the redacted segments would reveal a component of nbn’s cost position to potential and existing service and delivery partners, and hence limit nbn’s ability to negotiate or renegotiate any associated contracts. For this reason the information is commercial-in-confidence.

Please explain how revealing the redacted segments would reveal a component of NBN’s cost position when NBN had not negotiated any FTTN contracts at the time the Strategic Review was published?

- (a) If the redacted figures in the 2013 Strategic Review are reflective of NBN Co’s current cost position why has the peak funding for the NBN rollout blown out by over \$8 billion dollars?
- (b) Please provide the redacted segment for the per-premise construction costs for an FTTN network?

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**Answer:**

- (a) The answer states that redacted segments would reveal a component of the cost position to potential and existing service and delivery partners. This is not reliant on nbn having negotiated FTTN contracts at the time of the Strategic Review.
- (b) Please see response to Question on Notice 162 from November 2016 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing.