

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 143

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Program No. NBN Co

Topic: Boards (for Departments or agencies with boards)

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014 for each board in the portfolio or agencies:

1. how often has each board met, break down by board name;
2. what travel expenses have been incurred;
3. what has been the average attendance at board meetings;
4. List each member's attendance at meetings;
5. how does the board deal with conflict of interest;
6. what conflicts of interest have been registered;
7. what remuneration has been provided to board members;
8. how does the board dismiss board members who do not meet attendance standards?
9. Have any requests been made to ministers to dismiss board members?
10. Please list board members who have attended less than 51% of meetings
11. what have been the catering costs for the board meetings held during this period? Please break down the cost list.

Answer:

1. NBN Co Spectrum Pty. Ltd. – No meetings.
NBN Tasmania Limited – one meeting.
NBN Co Limited – nine meetings.
2. NBN Co Spectrum Pty. Ltd. – No travel expenses incurred by Directors.
NBN Tasmania Limited – No travel expenses incurred by Directors.
NBN Co Limited – Directors travel expenses are paid in accordance with the applicable Remuneration Tribunal Determination.
3. NBN Co Spectrum Pty. Ltd. – Not applicable
NBN Tasmania Limited – All Directors attended.
NBN Co Limited – All Directors (Dr Ziggy Switkowski AO, Dr Kerry Schott, Mr Justin Milne, Mr Bill Morrow, Mr Simon Hackett, Mr Patrick Flannigan and Ms Alison Lansley) attended all meetings subject to the following absences noted at the following meetings:
14 August – leave of absence (Mr Bill Morrow)
30 September – leave of absence (Dr Ziggy Switkowski AO)
16 December – leave of absence (Mr Justin Milne)
4. As per details above.
5. Directors of all entities provide a Declaration of Interest upon appointment which is updated at least annually or more often if determined necessary by the Director either at a

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meeting or via the Chairman/Company Secretary. A register of interests is maintained by the Company Secretary.

6. This is confidential Board information.
7. Directors of NBN Co Limited are remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal determination (refer to Section 2.14 of the Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise Governance and Oversight Guidelines (October 2011) (GBE Guidelines). Directors of NBN Co Spectrum Pty. Ltd and NBN Tasmania Limited are remunerated as Executives of NBN Co Limited and as such do not receive additional remuneration for the Directorships they hold in these two entities.
8. Refer to Section 2.15 and 2.17 (a) of the GBE Guidelines.
9. No
10. Not applicable
11. NBN Co Limited provides catering at the majority of scheduled Board meetings and Director's travel expenses are adjusted accordingly. Catering costs incurred between 1 July and 31 December 2014 were July 2014 - \$738, August 2014 - \$391, September 2014 - \$434, October 2014 – No Board meeting held, November 2014 - \$242 and December 2014 - \$259. Total : \$2,064