

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: 168

Program No. NBN Co

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Travel costs - department

Senator Ludwig asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. Is the minister or their office or their delegate required to approve all departmental and agency international travel?
2. If so, under what policy?
3. Provide a copy of that policy.
4. When was this policy implemented?
5. List all occurrences of travel that this has occurred under.
6. Detail the process.
7. When is the minister notified, when is approved provided?
8. Detail all travel (domestic and international) for Departmental officers that accompanied the Minister and/or Parliamentary Secretary on their travel. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel
9. Detail all travel for Departmental officers. Please include a total cost plus a breakdown that include airfares (and type of airfare), accommodation, meals and other travel expenses (such as incidentals). Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.
10. What date was the minister or their office was notified of the travel?
11. What date did the minister or their office approves the travel?
12. What travel is planned for the rest of this calendar year? Also provide a reason and brief explanation for the travel.

Answer:

1. No
2. – 8 Not applicable
9. NBN Co has a formal travel approval process which requires travellers to seek approval prior to booking hotels, cars & air travel. The reason for the travel is required to be provided to the travel approver. The functional classifications of travel (i.e. airfare, rental cars and accommodation) are illustrated in the table below.

Travel expenses (entertainment and fleet costs) for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014.

	Air Travel - International	Air Travel - Domestic	Rental Cars	Rental Car - Fuel	Taxis/Train	Parking	Kilometre Reimbursement	Hotels	Accommodation - International	Meals (Employee travelling)	Other Travel & Entertainment - International	Total
Total Travel Cost	256,136	3,242,527	222,386	98,383	1,072,840	141,393	136,163	1,574,401	82,186	521,390	10,816	7,358,620

10. – 11 Not applicable

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12. Travel expenses (excluding entertainment and fleet costs) for the rest of the financial year¹ (1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015).

	Air Travel - International (A805110)	Air Travel - Domestic (A805120)	Rental Cars (A805210)	Rental Car - Fuel (A805211)	Taxis/Train (A805220)	Parking (A805230)	Kilometre Reimbursement (A805240)	Hotels (A805300)	Accommodation - International (A805310)	Meals (Employee travelling) (A805410)	Other Travel & Entertainment - International (A805910)	Total
Total Travel Cost	289,600.00	3,722,945.91	13,734.00	104,214.94	964,578.87	11,997.00	14,653.00	1,971,687.31	29,468.75	860,844.69	62,094.00	8,045,818.46

¹ Budgeted travel expenditure between 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015 has been disclosed in order to align with the NBN Co financial year.