

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 2

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 6 - 20 November 14

Topic: CicoMilne Pty Ltd consultancy

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: AusTender indicates that this contract commenced on 25 September 2013. Is that correct?

Mr Clarke: I only have the month, but I have no reason to doubt the date you mention.

Senator URQUHART: That is literally a week after the minister was sworn in. Did that contract go through a process?

Mr Clarke: I have taken on notice the question about the circumstances leading up to it. I am happy to add the spirit of your question to that.

Senator URQUHART: Can you add what the process was?

Answer:

On 25 September 2013, Mr JB Rousselot, Dr Zygmunt Switkowski and Mr Justin Milne were employed by the Department of Communications as special NBN advisers for a period of one month. The early engagement of these people allowed them to assist in the substantial NBN transitional activities afoot at the time.

The services provided by the contractors was in relation to advice to the Commonwealth on NBN transition issues. All three also provided the Commonwealth Private Interest Declarations. The Department determined that these short term contracts represented good value for money.

All contracts commenced on 25 September 2013 and were terminated on the following dates:

- Dr Switkowski on 9 October 2013.
- Mr Rousselot on 23 October 2013.
- Mr Milne on 25 October 2013.

The amounts (GST inclusive) paid were:

	Days	Costs	Expenses	Total
Justin Milne (CicoMilne Pty Ltd)	11	\$11,000.11	\$2,450.72	\$13,450.83
JB Rousselet	5	\$5,000.00	\$2,733.88	\$7,733.88
Dr Switkowski			\$2,245.99	\$2,245.99
Total	16	\$16,000.11	\$7,430.59	\$23,430.70