

**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: 3**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 6 & 7 - 20 November 14**

**Topic: Minister Meeting**

**Senator Urquhart asked:**

**Senator URQUHART:** I am not sure whether you can help me on another issue, Mr Clarke, but the minister may be able to. I understand that the federal member for Braddon, Mr Brett Whiteley, met with senior advisers in Minister Turnbull's office on Friday to raise issues about the outcomes for the north-west coast following questions from a community forum held with Mr Turnbull last Monday. Was anybody from the department involved in those discussions, that you are aware of?

**Mr Clarke:** No, I do not believe there were any departmental officers present. It may be that they were and I am not aware of it, but not to my knowledge. I will confirm that.

**Senator URQUHART:** Can you confirm that, please? Was the department asked to provide any information at all for those discussions?

**Mr Clarke:** Quite possibly, but again I do not have personal knowledge of that. I am happy to take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** Are you able to find that out during the course of the day?

**Mr Clarke:** Certainly.

**Senator URQUHART:** If so—if you were asked to provide information—could you outline what that was?

**Mr Clarke:** I will take that on notice.

**Senator URQUHART:** The minister might be able to answer this or take it on notice. Do you know whether Mr Whiteley got the clarification that he was seeking to be able to inform the community about the NBN plans on the north-west coast of Tasmania?

**Senator Fifield:** I was not a party to any discussions there.

**Senator URQUHART:** I am not suggesting that you were, but you are the representing minister. I would have assumed that you would have had at least some knowledge of a discussion going on about the process on the north-west of Tasmania.

**Senator Fifield:** I will take the question on notice.

**Answer:**

No Departmental officers attended a meeting with Mr Whiteley. The Department was not asked to provide any material specifically for this meeting with Mr Whiteley.