

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications and the Arts or the**

**Question No: 7**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 7, 20/10/2015**

**Topic: Briefs – NSW Electorates**

**Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:**

**Senator DASTYARI:** Senator Fifield, are you aware—and you might have to take on notice if someone else has—of any of these documents being handed out or given out to an MP about a seat?

**Senator Fifield:** Yes, I am aware that some would be.

**Senator DASTYARI:** If I were to ask you, as a representative of New South Wales if I were to get—although the boundaries will change—

**Senator Fifield:** The boundaries of New South Wales have not changed.

**Senator DASTYARI:** I have a bit of an eye on some in Queensland.

**Senator Fifield:** You mean the house boundaries.

**Senator DASTYARI:** If I went to the 49 or so individual ones of these, is there any reason why, if I were to ask your office for them, you would not be able to give them to me?

**Senator Fifield:** Look, make the request and we will take a look.

**Senator DASTYARI:** But you have given them to other people.

**Senator Fifield:** You are talking about new boundaries?

**Senator DASTYARI:** No. I am saying on the old boundaries and what has been produced. You have been prepared to give these to coalition MPs. My question is, can we have them as well?

**Senator Fifield:** Let me check what has been briefed. As I have indicated, I am happy to take it on notice. Any request from any MP in relation to information and briefings for that electorates I am obviously very happy to look at and facilitate.

**Senator DASTYARI:** I will send you a letter now requesting the 49 different briefs for the New South Wales federal electorates that I represent. I would anticipate that because you are prepared to give it to coalition MPs, you are prepared to give me those 49 as well, as I represent those areas just as they do.

**Senator Fifield:** I am happy to receive your request and we will examine it as courteously as we do all requests. We also, as you would appreciate, liaise with the shadow minister and the shadow minister no doubt will seek briefings as well.

**Answer:**

The briefing material referred to was prepared by the Department for the Minister for Communications and the Arts and his staff in October 2015. The Minister's office has indicated that it would be happy to brief Members of Parliament on the NBN.