

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 85

nbn

Hansard Ref: Page 108 – 109, 20/10/2015

Topic: RFS Dates – Document Verification

Senator Reynolds, Linda asked:

CHAIR: Can I clarify, Mr Morrow or Minister, you are not saying you will not agree to table this yourselves; you want to go away and verify the document, this three- of four-point document, and then look to see whether you can table it with any commercial or other confidential information you would not want to see released publicly?

Mr Morrow: I would think for practical purposes and simplicity, it would be better for us to take our document that we know we produced the numbers on, redact the sensitive information and table that to the committee here rather than trying to validate every one of those numbers—and it looks like thousands of cells within that spreadsheet.

CHAIR: If you would be happy to take that course of action on notice, I think, the committee would be happy with that.

Senator CONROY: I have taken the document back. I move to table it.

CHAIR: Just to finish this, Mr Morrow, you have agreed to take on notice a request from the committee to review those documents that you can verify have come from nbn co and possibly redact anything that might be commercially sensitive or inappropriate to release and then you will table and submit those to the committee?

Mr Morrow: Yes.

...

CHAIR: Okay. We have two things before the chair. One is to confirm that you have taken this issue on notice and you will come back to the committee about this further and any of the implications?

Mr Morrow: That is correct.

Answer:

nbn can confirm that a document detailing anticipated dates that the nbn network will be ready for service is made available to retail service providers under confidentiality obligations, for planning purposes, and not for public release. The document that was produced by Senator Conroy, and later released via a blog site, has not been verified.