

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Treasury Portfolio**  
Budget Estimates 2014  
3 June to 5 June 2014

**Department/ Agency:** ACCC

**Question:** BET 764-767

**Topic:** Broadband monitoring

**Reference:** Written - 12 June 2014

**Senator:** Bishop

**Question:**

764. When does the ACCC intend to make a decision about implementing a broadband monitoring program?
765. At the estimates hearing on 4 June 2014, Mr Sims said that the implementation of the broadband monitoring program “is subject to funding.” Does the ACCC intend to put a request to Government for funding to implement the broadband monitoring program and if so, when?
766. What form will this request take?
767. Has the ACCC had any discussions with Government or the Minister in regard to obtaining the necessary funding?

**Answer:**

764. The ACCC does not have a firm timeframe about any decision to implement a broadband monitoring program. Examining the service performance of the NBN as experienced by end-users was a key catalyst for the ACCC to develop a broadband monitoring program. Therefore any ACCC decision may depend on the perceived performance of the NBN as it is rolled out. In addition, the Vertigan Committee is examining the regulatory settings for the NBN and their report may include recommendations that will have a bearing on whether a broadband monitoring program would be implemented.
765. If the ACCC decides to proceed with the broadband monitoring program, it then intends to apply for government funding. Any decision on funding is a matter for the Government.
766. Any funding request would take the form of a New Policy Proposal (NPP) for government determination.
767. The ACCC discussed the project with the previous government in early 2013. The ACCC updated the Department of Communications about the project over the course of 2013 to 2014. The ACCC indicated the likely funding requirements at a high level but has not submitted a NPP for government determination.