



Australian Government

Department of Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy

Ms Alison Kelly
Secretary to the Senate Select Committee
on the National Broadband Network
S1.61
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Kelly

I am writing in relation to the appearance by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy at the Committee hearings on 20 July 2009.

One question on notice was provided to us. The answer is attached to this letter for the Committee's information.

If the Committee has any further questions, the Department's contact in relation to this matter is Mr Ben Galdys. Mr Galdys can be contacted by telephone on 02 6271 1424 or email at ben.galdys@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Windeyer'.

Richard Windeyer
First Assistant Secretary
National Broadband Network Strategic Policy
12 August 2009



Australian Government

Department of Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

Inquiry into the National Broadband Network
Parliament House, Canberra

Monday, 20 July 2009

Question 1:

Senator Fisher (NBN110-111)

If I may, I will place a question on notice, and you might then indicate by when you will be able to answer it. With the first round, if you like, the participants in the RFP were subject to a commercial-in-confidence situation. Looking at the various balls that have progressively been thrown in the air in implementing the government's policies thus far, are you able to provide the committee with—for example, in tabulated form—a summary of which stakeholder groupings are subject to commercial-in-confidence arrangements or formal arrangements that prevent them from speaking outside the process in which they are participating? For example, I presume that may be the case for any parties attempting to participate in the various tenders that are underway—perhaps some of those would be participants in the implementation study.....

My question is: are you able to provide the committee with a description, or a summary, of each of those processes that are currently in play?

Answer:

The Department can foresee three categories/scenarios under which stakeholder groups will be constrained from comment, with respect to a particular activity associated with the National Broadband Network (NBN) initiative:

1. Some proponents involved in tender/procurement activities.
For example, the Request for Tender issued on June 16 2009 for Lead Advisory Services relating to the implementation study for the National Broadband Network.
2. Parties involved in negotiations with the Government to invest or vend in assets to the National Broadband Network.
3. The Department/Government with respect to issues and information provided on a commercial-in-confidence basis. This includes information provided to the Government as part of an investment decision, as part of a tender/procurement process or simply provided in good faith.