

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK

Questions on Notice

Inquiry into the National Broadband Network

Cliftons, Sydney

AIIA

QoN No.	Hansard Page Reference	Senator	Question	Status
1	NBN56-57	Nash	Senator NASH—Can you see any improvements either within the ACCC itself or within the legislation that guides it? Ms Johnson—With respect to detailed analysis of that legislation, no, we have not done that. I am happy to take that on notice and do that work for you. Senator NASH—Thank you. Ms Johnson—At the moment we would see that the ACCC certainly does have fairly wide powers. Whether it needs wider or deeper power or the ability to set prices itself rather than the arbitrate/negotiate model would be left in the hands of the policymakers. Senator NASH—I would appreciate it if you could take that on notice.	Empower ACCC to set terms and conditions of both price and non-price access; replace competition notice with clear powers to take (legal) action against any stakeholder suspected of anti-competitive conduct, ie: the powers ACCC has to regulate other businesses such as packaging companies or retail outlets.

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2	NBN58	Lundy	Senator LUNDY—What are some of the possibilities that government could do as far as pushing the technology at the small business sector that might present itself as having a similar upgrading effect on how small business does its thing in an environment of a higher bandwidth network? You do not have to answer it now, but I wanted to put it to you because I think there is an opportunity for government there to push it along. Mr Grant—That is a good question. There is no doubt government has the levers to make change. Philosophically our association would say, ‘Let’s understand what the levers are. Let’s make sure we put them in place and then let’s get out of the way, because that is when things will happen.’ Provided it is not heavily bureaucratised, the business world and SMEs will move very quickly. We will take that on notice. That is a very good question. I talk about visioning. What we need is real life examples.	Accelerated tax incentives; gov 2.0 initiatives that get traction with government by requiring both SMEs and government to engage using technology; better access to programs that facilitate getting SMEs online-savvy.