

Additional Estimates 2018–19

Communications and the Arts Portfolio – Tuesday, 19 February 2019

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
1.	1.1	Keneally	HFC rollout	<p>Senator KENEALLY: We might leave that there, Minister, and move on. Why did Mr Bill Morrow only give you 24 hours notice that he was going to take the halt of the HFC rollout to the board of NBN Co?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: I would have to check the time frames involved. The HFC halt was some time ago, so I'd need to check the timelines.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: You'll need to check the time lines as to when Mr Morrow gave you notice—is that what you said?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: Yes. This is more than a year ago. I'd have to check the time lines.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 6
2.	1.1	Hanson-Young	Partnership with Free TV	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: On 18 January this year the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, announced a partnership with Free TV to provide 1,000 hours of new Australian television content to Pacific broadcasters to the tune of \$17.1 million a year over three years. Mr Mrdak, was the department consulted about this decision?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: When did conversations first arise with you and your department about this?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I'd have to take on notice the exact timing but it was over a period of months last year as the government was framing its policy position in relation to improving engagement with the region.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 9
3.	1.1	Hanson-Young	Broadcasting content	<p>Mr Mrdak: The Australian government took the view that a broader range of content was more available from other sources than the national broadcasters for the purposes of ensuring that this sort of broader Australian content would be available in the region.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You sought specific legal advice around this</p>	19/02/2019 Page 13

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				<p>section?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We have sought advice, which has been provided internally within the department, in relation to this section of the act.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Who has given that advice? Is that lawyers inside the department, or have you gone through the Solicitor-General?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: It's been provided by a legal counsel within the department.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: You haven't considered that being stress tested?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I've seen no need to have the advice tested. It seems to me, based on the advice we have, that that is a robust position.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Would you be prepared to table that advice?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: It's legal advice provided within the department. I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. To be clear, the advice was specifically in relation to section 31AA?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Yes, that is my recollection. But I will take that on notice.</p>	
4.	1.1	Urquhart	Contract extensions	<p>Senator URQUHART: In the previous session of Senate estimates the department said it had the ability to extend the contracts. Has the department subsequently received legal advice or legal opinions that the Commonwealth did not have the discretionary ability to extend those contracts?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: Not to my knowledge.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Does this mean that the current supplier could actually refuse the extension of the service delivery contract at their discretion?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: I would have to seek advice on that question.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Is anyone else able to help, Mr Mrdak?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: No, Senator. We have the responsible officers at the table and Ms Silleri's answer is as far as we can say at this stage.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Mr Mrdak, if the current supplier refused to extend the contracts, what contingency arrangements are in place?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I think as Ms Silleri has indicated, we are working through alternative options with a number of potential providers at the moment. As we</p>	19/02/2019 Page 18

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				<p>look for a sustainable long-term service, we want to maintain the high level of service, but we also want to ensure that the Commonwealth is achieving value for money both in product and also in the cost of that provision.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: We understand that, in the most recent contract extension, a clause has been negotiated such that the Commonwealth is unable to extend contracts unless the negotiations begin nine months in advance. Is this true?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: There is a clause around the ability to commence transition at that period. But there are other mechanisms available to the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: So there is no clause that says that contracts have to be negotiated or begin nine months in advance?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: There are clauses around transition, but I'd like to take that specific reference you make on notice.</p>	
5.	1.1	Urquhart	Tender process	<p>Senator URQUHART: Can I just go back to the negotiations and the tender process. If the negotiations on extending the current contract do not commence before April 2019, does that void the ability of the Commonwealth to exercise the right to extend the contracts again?</p> <p>Ms Silleri: I think I'd like to take that on notice, Senator. It's a legal question and I'd need to take advice on it.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 19
6.	1.1	Keneally	Mr Webster – membership disclosure	<p>Senator KENEALLY: In response to my question, did he disclose his membership of the Liberal Party or his donations to the Liberal Party as a potential conflict of interest in the tender process? Your recollection of that is that it was not disclosed?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I don't believe so. I think it was his background as a former parliamentarian that featured in his biography. But we would need to take it on notice and review the submission that Korn Ferry put in to be able to answer definitively.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Is it possible, if Mr Webster did not disclose his role as a Liberal Party member and his status as a donor to the Liberal Party, that he has</p>	19/02/2019 Page 24-25

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				<p>potentially breached the requirement to disclose relevant conflicts of interest in relation to this tender?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I'd have to take that on notice, but I'll ask if my colleagues have any further advice in relation to the matter.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: We can take it on notice, but, given the role of Korn Ferry in supporting the selection panel, it was a report that the selection panel signed off on having been satisfied as to the appropriateness of the process and ultimately it was the selection panel that made the recommendation to government.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: But Mr Eccles—</p> <p>Mr Eccles: It was several steps removed from a decision, if you like. But we will take on notice your question about what constitutes a conflict.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Also, I will perhaps just further say I will also take on notice whether Mr Webster participated in this particular task by Korn Ferry—I'm not aware that he did.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: He didn't play a leadership role in the process.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: He didn't what?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: He wasn't the lead for Korn Ferry in this.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: But he was involved?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I don't know the answer to that.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We'll check that. He was a member of the firm and was listed as part of the firm and as being available, but I'm not aware as to whether he actually took part in any of the support for this panel. I will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: But he was identified in the tender as a potential—</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: As potentially being available for the task. But, as to whether he took part in the task, I will need to take that on notice.</p>	
7.	1.1	Keneally	Korn Ferry	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Before the break, we had just canvassed that an additional \$15,000 was paid to Korn Ferry on 7 January 2019 for, as I believe you termed it, unexpected costs relating to background checks?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: That's right.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: And they were checks that are required by the</p>	19/02/2019 Page 26

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				<p>nomination panel? Mr Eccles: Or were valued by the nomination panel. I will check. Senator KENEALLY: So they were valued. Are they an additional thing the nomination panel decided to do? Mr Eccles: I would need to check with the nomination panel as to the requirement behind that additional step. ... Senator KENEALLY: Which several of the board members have already said they didn't go through. Can we just be clear: the department can't say whether or not Mr Webster disclosed a conflict of interest, and with this high profile recruitment firm, Korn Ferry, the department did not do its own checks as to whether or not his Liberal Party membership or donors were declared; yet now you are paying Mr Webster's firm an extra \$15,000 to do unexpected background checks on these board, chair applicants? Mr Mrdak: No. Just to get the sequence, Mr Webster was identified in his CV through that process. We accepted that. I am not aware, but we will check, as to whether there was any reference to any conflict of interest in that. We are not aware, beyond his CV, that there was any reference to that. We did not undertake any further checks beyond that. We will check what role Mr Webster did or didn't play in supporting the panel on this occasion. I am not aware that he was involved with this task. To come to your last point in relation to this additional funding, it provides for additional background checking which we had not provisioned in the original contract. That does not of itself represent an additional payment to the firm.</p>	
8.	1.1	Keneally	Background check	<p>Senator KENEALLY: From your perspective, the panel came to you and said, 'We would like to vary the contract, get this additional funding to be available'—I understand it hasn't necessarily been disbursed, but available—'so that if we want to do this additional background checking, we can'? Mr Eccles: I think that's a fair characterisation. Senator KENEALLY: I understand you can't answer this today, so I want to put</p>	19/02/2019 Page 27

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				<p>a question on notice. Can I put to you the question as to whether or not Korn Ferry recommended this additional work, or the nomination panel decided on their own that they needed to do it?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: We would need to check with the nomination panel.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Thank you. I am interested in this because according to the recent AEC disclosure figures, which you mentioned earlier, Mr Mrdak, there are some levels of transparency around donations. Mr Webster donated \$15,375 in 2018. That is additional to the money that he had donated which we discussed at last estimates—\$14,000 in 2015 and \$15,000 in 2017. We now have a disclosure by the AEC that he donated \$15,375 in 2018. That is a similar sum to what this January 2019 variation represents. So I'm simply trying to understand the levels and potential conflicts of interest, the relationship to donations, the relationship to Liberal Party membership, and where requests for additional funds are originating. To be clear, you are taking on notice whether or not he disclosed his membership to the Liberal Party, whether or not he disclosed the donations that he made, and whether or not Korn Ferry initiated the request for this additional variation to the contract. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Yes, Senator. We will take that on notice.</p>	
9.	1.1	Keneally	ABC Chair applications	<p>Senator KENEALLY: How many applicants for the role of ABC chair were proactively contacted by Korn Ferry?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We don't have visibility on total numbers, but we understand that the nomination panel did request Korn Ferry to go and seek nominations from a range of suitable persons. We don't have visibility of the number involved, but we understand a relatively large number of people, on the half of the panel, were sought out by Korn Ferry.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Do you not have visibility because the process is not concluded yet?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: No, because the process is one for the panel. Those discussions were between the panel and the search consultants who were engaged. We understand that a number of persons were approached to apply for the position.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 30

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				<p>Senator KENEALLY: To pick up on Senator O'Neill's point, when you say a large number do you have a range that that might—</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: It would be in excess of 30 or more people who were encouraged I think—of that order, but I don't have exact numbers. I am just working on the basis of what we have been informally advised.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Will there become a time where you will know that number—that number will be available?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Not all persons who were approached to apply applied—</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: That wasn't what I asked. I asked how many potential applicants were proactively contacted.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: As I say, we are only aware of those who actually applied and were informally advised that Korn Ferry, at the panels' request, did sound out other parties.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Then my question was: will there come a time when that question can be answered?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I would have to take that on notice. I'm not aware of that. That would be a matter for the panel.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: How many applications for the role of chairperson were received by Korn Ferry?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I would have to take that on notice. We don't have the details with us.</p>	
10.	1.1	Keneally	ABC Chair role - interviews	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Of the total applicants, how many were denied an interview?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I will take that on notice. The report of the panel to the Prime Minister lists all of those who applied and all of those who were interviewed. I don't have that detail with me here today.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Given that you don't have that detail, let me just read out: I am asking, of the total applicants how many applicants were denied an interview, offered an interview, interviewed by the nomination panel?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 31-32

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				<p>Mr Mrdak: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: On what basis did the nomination panel select applicants for the written report and shortlist to the Prime Minister?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: They would have taken into account the criteria that are outlined in the legislation.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: How many candidates are there for the role of ABC chairperson recommended on the written shortlist provided to the Prime Minister.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: That will be part of the question on notice.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Overall, what steps did the nomination panel process take to consider these candidates, and the associated timings? For example, how many times did the panel meet to consider candidates, and when?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: My understanding of the process—and again we will provide this notice—was that the panel met initially to discuss the process and then to shortlist, then interviewed the shortlisted candidates and went through the process of finalising its report.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: What was the total cost of the nomination panel and recruitment process for the new ABC chairperson, including the cost of the recruitment firm Korn Ferry?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: It was \$94,764 for Korn Ferry. I don't think we have how much in terms of sitting fees and other things like travel that was provided to the panel. But we can get that very easily.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: Thank you very much.</p>	
11.	1.1	O'Neill	Pacific broadcasting	<p>Senator O'NEILL: When did the department first become aware that the Prime Minister was making this announcement?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I would have to take that on notice. It came out of a series of decisions that were taken by government at that time, which were announced by the Prime Minister over the last month or so.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Did you find out about it after the Prime Minister's announcement?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 32-33

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				<p>Mr Mrdak: No. At the time the decision was being taken we were aware of that. The Prime Minister has subsequently made announcements of a range of measures to enhance Australia's position in the region.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: You keep restating what you consider the purpose of it. I just want to get to the facts of the timeline. I doubt that it would be too difficult to allocate someone to find this information. What I want to know, if possible today, is when the department first became aware that the Prime Minister was making this announcement. When did the department or the Prime Minister's office advise the Department of Foreign Affairs that the Prime Minister was making this announcement?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: If you could come back to me later.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We'll try and do that as soon as possible.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Was this announcement recommended by Pacific nations?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: We are not privy to the discussions that took place between the Pacific nations and other arms of government, but we had had no discussions with the Pacific nations on this matter.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So I don't suppose that you can name a single Pacific nation that urged the government to give this money to a commercial network?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We were not involved with discussions directly with any other government on these matters.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Seeing that it does involve communications, and that is your department, can the department confirm that what Pacific nations have in fact requested is that the ABC be tasked with resuming Australian broadcasting services in the Pacific?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I'm not aware of that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Would you like to give it some consideration, Mr Eccles, and take it on notice?</p>	
12.	1.1	O'Neill	Supply of content agreement	Senator O'NEILL: Will the contract include a clause for the return of uncommitted funds to the Commonwealth?	19/02/2019 Page 38

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				<p>Mr Mrdak: Yes, if that were to take place. We envisage that the Commonwealth would only be making payments in relation to material that actually was purchased and made available. We don't envisage a prepayment per se, which would necessitate a repayment. But those are matters which we're now sorting through.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Just to confirm what you've said—the contract will not employ a mechanism to commit all the funds up-front. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: That's correct.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: There will be an acquittal process throughout the contract, which is the standard arrangement.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: But that's a time line you were unable to indicate to me in my earlier questioning.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: That's right. We're still in discussions around all of those matters.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Would you be able to provide me with a forward projection? I'm sure you'd have some planning documents about the timing around this.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We can provide you, on notice, what we anticipate to be the timing and next steps.</p>	
13.	1.1	Chisholm	NBN debt payments	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: What assumptions does the NBN corporate plan, which forecasts out to 2040, make about principal payments on the debt the NBN will be carrying?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: As we've mentioned, the corporate plan provides detailed forecasts over the four years of the corporate plan, and they reflect the decisions that the NBN executive have taken for the purpose of the corporate plan. In order to generate an estimate of long-term return, which is the internal rate of return, for the last year of the corporate plan a series of assumptions are adopted about key aspects of the business—operating costs, revenue and future capital—and they are projected out to 2040. But those assumptions don't reflect decisions that the company has taken about how it will manage its capital. They are assumptions for the purpose of generating an estimated rate of return. They're subject to further</p>	19/02/2019 Page 41

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				<p>consideration by the company as it enters into those further loans and considers how it will repay those loans.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: So does this mean the internal rate of return calculations in the corporate plan currently assume no principal payments and no dividends?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: Senator, I think I'd have to take that on notice. I can't recall the assumptions that it makes with regard to the allocation of the cash flow in the longer term.</p>	
14.	1.1	Urquhart	Mobile base stations	<p>Senator URQUHART: You're going to be busy over the next four months to get from 18 to 102. Is that going to happen?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: To put it in context, in 2017-18 we averaged one base station per day. What we're doing now is averaging one base station a little bit over every two days, because we've got to the difficult ones at the end. But we're still averaging one every two days.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Are you aware of any current delays that might occur with these towers?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: Yes, and I can take some detail on notice if you want. There are a range of delays which relate largely to planning approval delays and requirements from local councils for additional activities such as an environmental study, for example, or an additional layer of consultation with the local community. I'm aware of base stations where there was an MOU with a landholder for the land access. Six months in, that landholder withdrew their permission, so they had to negotiate a new land access agreement.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 42
15.	1.1	Urquhart	Wireless technology	<p>Senator URQUHART: The regional telecommunications review also referred to the AT&T's AirGig wireless technologies. Has the department done any assessment of this technology? And if so, can you outline what is attractive about its solution as a mobile-to-mobile connectivity?</p> <p>Mr Paterson: I'm going to have to take that one on notice, I'm afraid. I know there has been some done in my area on it, but I'm not across it.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 44
16.	1.1	O'Neill	Business enterprise	Senator O'NEILL: I've been looking through here trying to find any reference	19/02/2019

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			activity	<p>to it in the corporate plan. It is a corporate activity that is underway; is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: This is the business enterprise activity?</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: It has always formed part of the NBN corporate plan and their business strategy, yes. But I'm not aware that anything in the last corporate plan involved any additional changes to peak funding to accommodate that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Okay. My question wasn't really about peak funding. It was whether any additional capital expenditure was set aside.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Not that I'm aware. Not in terms of government funding, no.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Minister, you're not aware of anything in this space?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: In terms of how NBN allocate their capital within the corporate plan, we'll check with NBN. Mr Madsen, who on is his way, may be able to assist. If not, we'll ask NBN when they are at the table.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: In terms of their corporate planning and business planning for the NBN, there had always been a capital allocation for their business enterprises operations. I don't think that changed in the last corporate plan in terms of any additional amounts going to that, though, but I'll take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Thanks, Mr Mrdak. Any further information from anyone who has arrived?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: Mr Madsen has been in transit, so we might need to replay your question to him.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: I gave the question to the minister, but he has sought assistance from the department. Could he confirm whether additional capital expenditure was set aside in the 2019 corporate plan to support NBN running fibre to enterprises?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: My understanding is that there was additional capital allocated to enterprise services. That has assisted the company to enhance the quality of the services that it's providing.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Is that referred to anywhere in the plan?</p>	Page 62-63

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				<p>Mr Madsen: Bear with me.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We might come back to you on that, if that's okay. I think we'll check that and we'll cross-check that with NBN. I don't know if it's specifically referred to in the corporate plan.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Mr Madsen, you indicated that there was an additional amount. If you're looking for that reference in the plan, that would be great. What was the additional amount?</p> <p>Mr Madsen: Perhaps I will search the corporate plan and try and find the reference. I can't recall the exact amount. If you bear with us, we'll see if we can find out.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: And it should be in this plan or, if not, it would be in another document you could access?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: If it's not referenced in the plan, we'll check with NBN Co about what provision was made in this corporate plan for any increase in peak funding to accommodate that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Okay. Mr Madsen, what is your general recollection of the quantum? It wasn't billions of dollars, I'm assuming.</p> <p>Mr Madsen: I wouldn't like to speculate. I think we've said we'll have a look.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I think it's best we check that.</p> <p>Mr Madsen: We'll do our very best to come back to you.</p>	
17.	1.1	O'Neill	NBN greenfield sites	<p>Senator O'NEILL: If I understand correctly—and please correct me if I haven't got this—the initial request would come in. The case would be then determined. You referred to a class response. What is a class approval to build enterprise fibre into non-NBN greenfield areas? Does NBN Co have one?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: I will clarify. Under the policy, NBN would apply to shareholder ministers to overbuild fibre in a new development. It could also apply to ministers to say, 'For any new developments of this sort in networks of this sort, we seek permission to overbuild in a general sense.' I would have to take on notice the extent to which applications have been made. My feeling is that no applications have been made.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 64-65

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				<p>Senator O'NEILL: I need to go back to understand a bit of what you just said then in terms of the class and the government's position on that. Can you repeat what you said, Mr Kathage?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: Yes. Sorry if I'm being confusing. All I meant was that NBN can write to shareholder ministers on a case-by-case basis. They can also wrote to shareholder ministers and ask for permission to overbuild in certain circumstances that might apply generally. For example, NBN Co might set out a series of things to consider or characteristics of the network that it would seek to overbuild in the permission. It would seek permission from shareholder ministers on that basis.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So they can generalise it out?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: Right.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Does NBN Co have class approval to build enterprise fibre into non-NBN greenfield areas?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: As far as I am aware, they have not made an application in general. I would have to take on notice the number of times they've applied to shareholder ministers for particular overbuild actions.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So there's no general class that applies where they can just go to where they want?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: That's correct.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: And you're going to take on notice to give me some idea about how frequently this has occurred?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: Correct, yes.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Could you provide me with a list of the occasions on which this request has been advanced?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: We could, yes.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: To the best of your recollection, when was that most recently undertaken?</p> <p>Mr Kathage: I would have to take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p>	

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				<p>Senator O'NEILL: I'll look forward to further information from you regarding this and any indicative reveal of the process that is engaged and correspondence that happens as part of the process.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We'll get you some information on the guidelines and the way they have been operationalised in terms of approvals and when that has happened and the like to give you some context for what the NBN is doing with their enterprise plan.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: A record of the occasions on which it has occurred and indicative correspondence about how the decision-making process gets made.</p>	
18.	1.1	Chisholm	5G spectrum auction	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I have a couple of questions on the 5G spectrum auction, Mr Mrdak. I refer to a very insightful question that I asked in October last year. Following the announcement of TPG and Vodafone, did the government undertake a process to assess the revenue implications of the joint venture and the reduced competitive tension that could result from having fewer bidders in the auction? Your response was:</p> <p>Again, I need to be very cautious because of the probity requirements of the auction.</p> <p>Now that we've passed the auction, I want to explore this further. Did the department undertake a process to assess the revenue implications of the joint venture that would result from having fewer bidders in the auction?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We didn't do a revenue analysis per se in terms of sale, but we certainly did look at what are the potential impacts of the competition limits once the joint venture was approved for the process of bidding. If that resulted in essentially the reserve price being paid for the available spectrum in metro areas, we did look at that in the context of advice to the government in relation to the auction.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: But surely that diligence that was undertaken would have taken into account revenue implications?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We certainly looked at potential impacts of the merger. As I said, certainly in revenue impacts, yes, because of how that was then factored into</p>	19/02/2019 Page 69

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				<p>what was put into the forward estimates for sale receipts. We did do that analysis, yes.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Are you able to provide us with an understanding of what that was?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: No. I'd have to take that on notice. I don't think we're in a position to provide that advice.</p>	
19.	1.1	Chisholm	Auction process	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Mr Mrdak, following the TPG and Vodafone announcement, what options and advice did you present to the minister warning of potential risks to the revenue option if it were continued unmodified in its original form?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We provided advice in relation to, as I just mentioned, what would be the potential impacts on what was in the forward estimates for sale receipts from the spectrum and also options that may be available; and also, as the minister mentioned earlier, what the powers of the minister would be to intervene, given that the auction process was effectively underway; and what the options would be to change any of the settings in the auction.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: And what were those options that were presented to the minister with regards to changing the auction timeframes or auction design?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: We provided advice in relation to the minister's legal powers to intervene into the auction process.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Can you explain to the committee what they were?</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: I think that some of it relied very much on legal advice. I would probably take that on notice, if I may, in terms of what details I can provide you. Obviously, some of that advice may have impacts on future auctions. I will take that on notice, if I can.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 69
20.	1.1	Chisholm	Auction revenue	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: How much more revenue would the auction have raised if the metropolitan auction achieved the same prices as the regional auction?</p> <p>Ms Sullivan: I would have to take that on notice. I would need to do the maths, basically.</p> <p>Mr Mrdak: Again, it's very important to recognise the impact of the</p>	19/02/2019 Page 72

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				competition limits and what that did to preclude certain bidders from metropolitan spectrum. We didn't have the same competitive tension in the metro areas as we did in the regional areas because of the competition limits being applied.	
21.	2.1	Bilyk	Contemporary music policy	<p>Senator BILYK: Do you have a contemporary music policy?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Not directly, but we work with key stakeholders in the contemporary music space. We've run a number of projects in that space. We obviously engage with the contemporary music sector on a very regular basis.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: I would have thought that music is an art form or creative industry and should have a policy.</p> <p>Senator Fifield: Individual creatives have a number of avenues through the Australia Council for project funding and funding for individuals. There have been some discrete programs in the department part funded by the Australia Council in relation to contemporary Australian music.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Can you on notice give me a listing of what those programs were and when they ran?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes. Absolutely, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Thanks. What would the objectives have been in the creative music space, then?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Some of the objectives have been to help songwriters develop their craft. We've run programs that assist in that area. Sometimes that is engaging schoolkids with contemporary music song-making. The Australia Council runs the Contemporary Music Touring Program, which is responsible for supporting regional touring of contemporary music around the country. That's probably all I can mention.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: On notice once again, can you give me a breakdown of how many and where some of those events took place—the songwriting stuff and the schoolkids programs?</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: You don't go to every school, though, do you?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 80-81

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				<p>Dr Arnott: No. It would be a proportion.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: If I could get a list of that, that would be great, thanks.</p> <p>Dr Arnott: Yes. We can provide those details.</p>	
22.	2.1	Bilyk	Cooktown 2020 festival	<p>Senator BILYK: Can someone talk to me about the Cooktown 2020 festival? I think you or Mr Morrison made an announcement about that in January. Is that right?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: Yes. I was in Cooktown recently with the Prime Minister and Mr Entsch, the local member. The local government has a big program to mark the occasion. What was announced there was a number of things, including the circumnavigation of the <i>Endeavour</i> and the indicative stops around the country that the replica <i>Endeavour</i> will make. I should also indicate that, at the places the <i>Endeavour</i> stops, there will be traveling exhibitions supported by the National Maritime Museum and the National Museum. When I was in Cooktown with the Prime Minister, we also announced a number of elements for the Cooktown 2020 festival that are being funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Although obviously it's a different estimates, I'm happy to quickly take you through what those elements were.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Is that \$5.45 million for the festival?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: That's through the Community Development Grants Program administered by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. That's right—\$5.45 million.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: That's just for the Cooktown festival?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: That's for the Cooktown 2020 festival, which includes the development of the Reconciliation Rocks precinct, the botanic gardens and upgrades to the Gamaay Dreaming Track. It will also support a project to house artefacts that are used by the local community for the annual re-enactment of the story of Australia's first active reconciliation on the banks of the Endeavour River.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Presumably, traditional owners will be, and have been, involved in this project?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 81

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				<p>Senator Fifield: Yes, they have. The Cooktown community is a model for reconciliation and how communities can come together to work. I think they really do embody the outlook of these celebrations, which is to look at the view from the ship and the view from the shore.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Has anything happened since the project was announced?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: In terms of those projects by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, it is best that those questions be put to them. But in terms of the commemorations that my portfolio has responsibility for, there is the Cook exhibition at the National Library, which is ongoing. There's work that the National Maritime Museum is putting in. We can take on notice and give you the full details of all of those elements that the National Maritime Museum has charge of, those that the National Library has charge of and those that the National Museum has charge of. We'll give you a comprehensive list.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Is there a time line for this project?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: Well, there are different time lines for each element, which we can provide for you.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Can we get a copy of that?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: Certainly.</p>	
23.	2.1	Dodson	International Year of Indigenous Languages	Please advise all funding allocations to activities that directly support the International Year of Indigenous Languages.	04/03/2019 Written
24.	1.1	Chisholm	Fox Sports	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I'll try to get to the most important ones rather than waste time on those. I think it was December 2017. Minister, at Senate estimates on 23 October last year, it was confirmed that the department received a first performance report from Fox Sports on 30 July 2018. That report had been provided to your office. There you stated that it was your intention to provide maximum transparency and that you want to provide the maximum information publicly subject to commercial-in-confidence. Why, then, did you wait until after the Senate estimates hearing to first release the performance report on the department's website?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 82-83

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator Fifield: I don't have in my mind when that performance report was made public.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Well, it was made public after 23 October. You had had it since 30 July.</p> <p>Senator Fifield: So that means it has been available for November, December, January and February publicly.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I'm asking why you had it for so long without releasing it publicly.</p> <p>Senator Fifield: I don't know what the sequence of events was prior to it going on the website. I'm happy to take that on notice. I don't have a recollection of any direction in relation to that. But we're happy to take that on notice.</p>	
25.	1.1	Chisholm	Women's sport	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: Do you know what percentage of those two figures was specifically for women's sport?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I can certainly give you an idea. I can go through. For example, there was 811 hours of AFLW. There was 170 hours of the W-League. There was 147 hours of Matildas. There were 54 hours of women's rugby sevens and 22 hours of women's test rugby league. There are a number of sports—cycling and lawn bowls—which obviously have components of both. Surfing has components of both, including Ironman. I would need to take it away to do that precise calculation. There is the international Women's Cricket World Cup, the WNBL of 174 hours, the Women's Asian Cup, the World League finals of women's hockey, gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics, artistic gymnastics, beach volleyball, women's one day cricket and the Super W rugby union. So there's a significant amount. We'll give you a breakdown of exactly what proportion in terms of hours. We can give you an approximate but on notice.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: On page 2, it goes on to describe what the broadcast will be in the second year of the funding agreement. It says it will be around 1,300 hours of live coverage and around 3,000 hours of coverage in total. Why are live hours going backwards by nearly 20 per cent and total coverage hours by nearly 40 per cent in the second year of the funding agreement?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 83

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				<p>Mr Eccles: What page are you referring to, Senator?</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: My understanding is it is page 2.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: Page 1 is the one that outlined the 4,800?</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I would need to take that on notice and look into that. The relevant subject matter experts aren't here.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I would be interested to know why there has been a drop in those figures and to understand what has been lost to see those figures drop significantly, if what I outlined is correct.</p>	
26.	1.1	Chisholm	Audience number comparison	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: How can the department assess whether the grant of funds was a value for money investment if it's unable to compare audiences between Fox Sports and free-to-air?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: I think the value for money goes to the number of hours broadcast that give people the opportunity to see sports that, for market reasons, have not been supported by either the national broadcasters or the commercial free-to-air. The key criteria that we have is the new exposure given to these sports. We'll take on notice the extent to which we can ascertain audience numbers. But the key mark is the extent to which there's a platform that's giving profile to sports that have not received broadcast profile in the past.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 84
27.	1.1	Bilyk	Ministerial functions	<p>In relation to any functions or official receptions hosted by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2018, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees including departmental officials and members of the Minister's family or personal staff; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; • Any available photographs of the function; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	28/02/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
28.	1.1	Bilyk	Departmental functions	In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc. hosted by the Department or agencies within the portfolio in calendar year 2018, please provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; • Any available photographs of the function; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	28/02/2019 Written
29.	1.1	Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of the Secretary's office, or the offices of any Deputy Secretaries, upgraded in calendar year 2018? If so, please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).	28/02/2019 Written
30.	1.1	Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Were the facilities of any of the Department's premises upgraded in calendar year 2018, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines, or other kitchen equipment? If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	28/02/2019 Written
31.	1.1	Bilyk	Staff travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for departmental employees in calendar year 2018?	28/02/2019 Written
32.	1.1	Bilyk	Media monitoring	What was the Department's total expenditure on media monitoring in calendar year 2018? Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all media monitoring contracts in that period.	28/02/2019 Written
33.	1.1	Bilyk	Advertising and information campaigns	What was the Department's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in calendar year 2018?	28/02/2019 Written

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				What advertising and information campaigns did the Department run in the relevant period? Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all advertising and information campaign contracts in that period.	
34.	1.1	Bilyk	Promotional merchandise	What was the Department's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in calendar year 2018? Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all promotional merchandise contracts in that period. Please provide photographs or samples of relevant promotional merchandise.	28/02/2019 Written
35.	1.1	Bilyk	Ministerial overseas travel	Please provide an itemised list of the costs of all international travel undertaken by Ministers or Assistant Ministers in the portfolio in calendar year 2018. This list should include the costs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flights for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the airline and class of travel; • Ground transport for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials; • Accommodation for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials, and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed; • Meals and other incidentals for the Minister and any accompanying members of the Minister's personal staff or family members, as well as any accompanying departmental officials. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided; and • Any available photographs documenting the Minister's travel should also be provided. 	28/02/2019 Written
36.	1.1	Bilyk	Social media	What was the Department's total expenditure on social media influencers	28/02/2019

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
			influencers	<p>during calendar year 2018? What advertising or information campaigns did the Department use social media influencers to promote? Please provide a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts. Please provide an itemised list of all Austender Contract Notice numbers for all relevant social media influencer contracts.</p>	Written
37.	1.1	Griff	USO matters	<p>1. In reference to the Department's statement on 5 December 2018, that 'there is scope for some careful examination of payphone locations given the strong uptake of mobile services' and that the Government will undertake further work in this area, can you please provide a breakdown of the work that is to be undertaken, and a timeframe for when the work will be completed. 2. The Department's Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) from November 2018 stated it will obtain additional primary data regarding payphone users and their usage patterns to test and fine tune the proposed changes. What steps has the Department taken to initiate this? a. Has the data been collected and will it be made publicly available? b. What date is it anticipated that the work in this area will be completed? 3. There is strong evidence showing the continual decline of payphone usage, and according to the Productivity Commission (PC), 'a strong case for winding back Telstra's contractual obligations' and a lack of justification for a continued 'blanket' payphone USO. What is the Department doing to address the inflexibility of the current USO arrangements; in particular, the payments to Telstra to maintain funding for payphone services where demand has considerably declined? 4. In the PC's final report following its inquiry into the 'future direction of a universal service obligation in an evolving telecommunications market', it was concluded that the current USO arrangement is 'anachronistic and costly... [and]...no longer serving the best interests of the Australian</p>	28/02/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>community'. The Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO) independent performance audit similarly identified that 'key aspects of the TUSOPA do not reflect value for money principles'. The Department's RIS from November 2018 stated that maintaining the status-quo for payphones 'ranks last', fails the cost-effectiveness test and 'represents an inefficient use of both Commonwealth and industry funds'. The majority of submissions to the PC also expressed support for reform and a general consensus that the existing USO is out of date. Why is the Department, despite many findings showing otherwise, choosing to retain the current, costly USO arrangements?</p> <p>5. The ANAO report identified mechanisms in the TUSOPA allowing the Department, or Telstra, to submit a proposal for cost savings and the ability to propose a change in the scope of services. The ANAO report stated that the Department has not provided any evidence to show that it has considered, or sought to utilise either of these two flexibility mechanisms. What work, if any, has the Department done in relation to utilisation of these mechanisms?</p> <p>6. The ANAO report references a proposal from TUSMA to the Minister of DoCA identifying cost savings of \$299 million over 20 years which could be achieved by changing the scope of services. It appears this proposal was not pursued any further. Has the Department considered implementing any of the suggestions of this proposal? If not, why not?</p> <p>a. If the Department has considered the proposal, what are the reasons it has not implemented any of the cost saving suggestions?</p> <p>7. Telstra has been using its payphone infrastructure to provide WiFi (Telstra Air) to consumers and recently announced plans to upgrade more than 1,500 payphones around Australia; making the payphones larger and including digital advertising screens which reportedly, can earn Telstra up to \$8,000 each week. As there is no requirement for Telstra to specify which of its payphones are non-commercial, and no obligation for Telstra to report on</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>how the USO funds are spent, what steps, if any, is the Department taking to ensure that the USO funds are being used by Telstra to deliver payphone services as per the TUSOPA?</p> <p>8. Both the PC and ANAO reports concluded that there is a lack of transparency surrounding the TUSOPA, and the PC stated that the lack of accountability and transparency makes the continuation of the current arrangement very difficult to justify. What is the Department doing to increase transparency and accountability of the USO arrangement?</p> <p>a. Is the Department conducting an audit into Telstra's performance reporting under the USO contract? If so when will the audit be completed and will the results be made publicly available?</p> <p>9. In December 2018, the Minister for DoCA announced that 'potential savings in the hundreds of millions of dollars over the period from 2020 to 2032 were identified'. Can you please provide a breakdown of where these potential savings have been identified and the actual amount of the potential savings? Do the savings remain "potential savings" or have they now been realised?</p>	
38.	1.1 [Minister]	Urquhart	Pacific announcement	1. Referring to the Prime Minister's announcement of a \$17 million contract in partnership with Free TV Australia for Australian content for three years to Pacific broadcasters across region, did the Minister seek any advice from the Department of Communications on how achieve value for money for the taxpayer when delivering broadcasting services in the Pacific, prior to the Prime Minister's initial statement on 8 November 2018 ?	04/03/2019 Written
39.	1.1 [Minister]	Urquhart	Classification review	2. What consideration has the Minister given to a review of the Classification regime in Australia? 3. Why has the Minister delayed a review of the Classification system in Australia?	04/03/2019 Written
40.	1.1 [Minister]	Urquhart	ABC Chair	4. Did the Minister encourage Mr Ita Buttrose to apply for the role of ABC Chairperson in 2018? If no, why not?	04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>5. Did the Minister encourage any women to apply for the role of ABC Chairperson in 2018? If no, why not?</p> <p>6. Who's idea was it to approach Ms Buttrose to canvass her interest in the role of ABC Chairperson?</p> <p>7. On what date did you first approach Ms Buttrose to canvass her interest in the role of ABC Chairperson?</p> <p>8. On what date did the Prime Minister first approach Ms Buttrose to canvass her interest in the role of ABC Chairperson?</p>	
41.	1.1 [Minister]	Urquhart	IPA donations	<p>9. The Minister has confirmed that he has made private donations to the IPA, but that these donations were not made in his time as Minister for Communications and the Arts. Given the fact of the Minister's membership of the IPA, and given the IPA's position on matters relating to the Communications Portfolio, would the Minister please specify the date/s on which he has, in his personal capacity, made donation/s to the IPA and specify the amount of each donation/s.</p> <p>10. Why does the Minister refuse to disclose the date and amount of his donation/s to the IPA?</p>	04/03/2019 Written
42.	1.1	Urquhart	Pacific announcement	<p>Referring to the Prime Minister's announcement of a \$17 million contract in partnership with Free TV Australia for Australian content for three years to Pacific broadcasters across region:</p> <p>1. Did the Minister seek any advice from the Department of Communications on how achieve value for money for the taxpayer when delivering broadcasting services in the Pacific, prior to the Prime Minister's initial statement on 8 November 2018?</p> <p>2. Was advice provided to Government on how to best achieve value for money to the taxpayer – including the option of a Commonwealth tender process - prior to the Prime Minister's announcement of a \$17 million Pacific Broadcasting contract to Free TV on 17 January 2019?</p> <p>3. Did this announcement go through the usual Commonwealth procurement process?</p> <p>4. Can the Department advise what steps were taken to comply the process?</p>	04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>5. Was it a competitive tender process or a closed tender process?</p> <p>6. When did the DFAT and DOCA first make contact with one another about the Prime Minister's announcement of \$17 million for commercial media in the Pacific?</p> <p>7. On what dates have the Departments been in contact about implementation of the announcement?</p> <p>8. What engagement have the Departments had about the question of soft power in the Pacific, given the concurrent reviews on foot?</p> <p>9. Free TV represents the interests of commercial television networks. Commercial television networks are answerable to shareholders, not the Australian public. What is the Department doing to ensure commercial conflicts of interest are managed in relation to soft power in the Pacific?</p> <p>10. Free TV represents the interests of commercial television networks, who are sometimes, but not always, the rights-holders of the programs they broadcast. What is the Department doing to manage the potential conflict Free TV has in its role in assisting the determination of what programming best suits the needs of our Pacific neighbours, and what programming to make available to meet those needs? [For example, Free TV may favour the in-house programming of the television networks over the programming produced by independent Australian production houses, for example].</p>	
43.	1.1	Urquhart	Classification review	11. What work has the Department done to prepare a review of or reform to the Classification regime in Australia?	04/03/2019 Written
44.	1.1	Urquhart	5G Working Group	<p>12. Please provide a detailed update on the progress of the 5G Working Group, the date of meetings, attendees, companies represented, topics discussed, documents created and outcomes reached.</p> <p>13. Please provide a detailed description of what the 5G Working Group has achieved since it was set up, and an outline of its next steps.</p>	04/03/2019 Written
45.	1.1	Urquhart	National Relay Service - \$22	The Minister and the Department have made repeated references to a \$22 million funding allocation for the NRS in 2012.	04/03/2019 Written

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			million funding allocation	The Minister has said: "The NRS annual funding allocation of \$22 million was set in 2012" a) Where does the \$22 million figure come from? b) Please supply a public source, from 2012, which makes reference to the \$22 million allocation which the Minister has referred to?	
46.	1.1	Urquhart	National Relay Service – call minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many total call minutes did the NRS have in 2012? • How many total call minutes did the NRS have in FY2017-18? • Do call minute rates increase with CPI or any form of indexation? • How many call minutes were there over captioned telephony in 2013-14? • How many call minutes were there over captioned telephone in 2017-18? 	04/03/2019 Written
47.	1.1	Urquhart	National Relay Service - hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What does the new "NRS Hub" entail? b) Is the new "NRS Hub" evidence-based? c) What is the cost of the design, implementation and maintenance of the new "NRS Hub"? d) Who was consulted about the new "NRS Hub" and how were they consulted? e) Who was sitting on the decision making table regarding the "NRS Hub"? 	04/03/2019 Written
48.	ACMA	O'Neill	Network traffic authentication protocols	<p>Senator O'NEILL: At a technical level, what have initial consultations revealed about the network traffic authentication protocols?</p> <p>Mr Fenton: We've been engaged in bilateral discussions with a number of CSPs to date around those very issues. I'm somewhat reluctant to go into too much detail, because, as soon as disruption of scam activity is publicly identified, scammers very quickly circumvent the disruption methods.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So you don't want to give them any hints today?</p> <p>Mr Fenton: That's our intent, with your agreement.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Yes, but there is work underway?</p> <p>Mr Fenton: There is work underway. To more fully answer your question: one of the areas of interest for the ACMA will be, to the extent disruption measures and authentication protocols are used on a particular CSP's network, the extent to which that can be broadened so that there is whole-of-market coverage in Australia.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 47

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				<p>Senator O'NEILL: If there is anything further that you can add off the record, that would be of interest.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: We'll take that on notice. We also might add to that some of the other activities we are doing in terms of investigations and complaints, but we'll take that on notice and provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Thank you very much. How do potential protocols interact with spoofed numbers which are generated from scam callers overseas?</p> <p>Mr Fenton: That's quite a technical question. There is the potential for authentication protocols to, essentially, disrupt or allow verification of calls, including in relation to overstepping or spoofing. There are some quite significant technical issues to be explored around how those protocols can be rolled out in Australia, to the extent they can. Some of those protocols that I think you're referring to—they're certainly in the public domain—only work in an IP to IP network environment, and that is not the environment that we have, certainly some CSPs have in Australia.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Again, if there's further information you can provide on notice, that would be much appreciated.</p>	
49.	ACMA	O'Neill	Call screening	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Have any options been identified in terms of software being embedded in consumer hardware and being able to detect calls which are high risk and screening those? Is there an area where machine learning solutions potentially have a role to play?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I think each of those would be looked at through the project.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So nothing is identified at this point of time? That's a work in progress?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: It's a work in progress.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Again, any updates on where you are with that, off the record or on notice, would be great.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 47-48
50.	ACMA	Dean Smith	Mount Barker licence area plan	<p>Senator DEAN SMITH: I do. Thank you very much. This won't take long. I don't think it will be particularly painful either. My questions go to licence area plans or planning in South Australia, particularly with regard to the Mount Barker</p>	19/02/2019 Page 48

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				<p>area. I understand that the licence area plan for Mount Barker in South Australia was set to be completed by the end of 2018. Of course, now we're in February 2019. I understand that not too much has been done. Can someone give me an update with regard to where that licence area plan process is at and when it can be expected to be completed?</p> <p>Ms Caruso: I'm not briefed on Mount Barker in particular, but I understand that that's probably one of the areas that we're looking at for AM to FM conversions. We're prioritising those conversions. There are a number underway at the moment. I will take on notice the detail and come back to you with the status of Mount Barker.</p> <p>Senator DEAN SMITH: You said there are a number of conversions underway. In South Australia?</p> <p>Ms Caruso: Yes. As I understand it, we've been planning some around Murray Bridge in South Australia and the Spencer Gulf and Riverland areas.</p> <p>Senator DEAN SMITH: So there are three projects underway in South Australia?</p> <p>Ms Caruso: Yes. The engineering reports for the AM to FM conversions have been completed. We are preparing consultation documents. That's the next stage in the process. Once consultations are completed, the licensees are free to undertake their FM conversions.</p> <p>Senator DEAN SMITH: So what is the frequency that we're talking about with regard to those three areas?</p> <p>Ms Caruso: I don't know. I would have to take that on notice. Each area has quite specific planning arrangements. I'd like to get that detail for you.</p> <p>Senator DEAN SMITH: The one that I'm most interested in is the 88.9 FM frequency.</p> <p>Ms Caruso: Yes. As I said, I'll need to take it on notice and look at the detail for Mount Barker.</p>	
51.	ACMA	Chisholm	Spectrum pricing	Senator CHISHOLM: Can you point to a previous spectrum auction held in	19/02/2019

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				<p>Australia where the regional price fetched six times the metropolitan price?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I think we would have to take that on notice. I'm not aware of any.</p> <p>Ms Caruso: I'm not aware of any. I think each auction is unique—</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Yes.</p> <p>Ms Caruso: in terms of who is interested in the spectrum, what its purpose is and the strength of competition in each auction. So I'm not aware of any similar results. Each auction is quite unique.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Minister, did you have the power to delay the auction?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: The advice that I received was that it was a matter for ACMA. I don't possess the power to direct ACMA once an auction process has been initiated.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: Is that your understanding, Ms O'Loughlin?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Yes.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: So the minister doesn't have the power to stop it?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: That's my understanding.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: In terms of other spectrum auctions. That will be taken on notice?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Yes. I agree with Ms Caruso that there is a danger. It's very hard to find any apples and apples in the spectrum auction space, but we'll certainly provide information for you.</p>	<p>Page 52</p>
52.	ACMA	Chisholm	Spectrum auction	<p>Senator CHISHOLM: I want to be clear on the minister's power in this. He has a legal power to set a reserve price, but that would have to be before the auction is initiated.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: I think it would be most efficient and less disruptive to the process if that reserve price was set well before we started off on the auction process, and that is what has occurred previously.</p> <p>Senator CHISHOLM: I wasn't asking what would be disruptive or not. I was asking about what would be legal or not.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin: Well, I can take that on notice. Normally, it has happened well</p>	<p>19/02/2019 Page 53</p>

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				before the auction process has started.	
53.	ACMA	Waters	Campervan advertising	<p>1. What oversight, if any, does ACMA have over offensive slogans on vehicles, namely graphic or sexist slogans on Wicked Campers campervans?</p> <p>2. Has the Authority conducted any investigations or reviews into the effectiveness of the advertising regulation framework pertaining to Wicked Campers, including the Advertising Standards Bureau's effectiveness in upholding community standards in advertising? If so, what were the conclusions drawn?</p>	26/02/2019 Written
54.	ACMA	Griff	Do Not Call Register	<p>1. Please provide the total number of complaints in relation to the Do Not Call Register for past three financial years.</p> <p>a. Please include a breakdown of the number and proportion of complaints regarding calls by registered charities, Government bodies, political parties, candidates, educational institutions and others as appropriate.</p> <p>b. Please advise whether any of the complaints against registered charities, political parties, government bodies and educational institutions were upheld.</p> <p>c. Did ACMA take any action in relation to any of the complaints against registered charities, Government bodies, political parties, candidates and educational institutions?</p> <p>d. If possible, please provide a further breakdown of the type of complaint/ reason for the complaint for each of these categories.</p> <p>2. How many Australian numbers are now on the Do Not Call Register?</p> <p>a. If known, how many of these are defunct numbers?</p>	28/02/2019 Written
55.	ACMA	Urquhart	Regional and Small Publisher's Innovation fund	<p>Online form</p> <p>1. What technology was used in the online application form?</p> <p>2. Who developed the online application form?</p> <p>3. How rigorously was the online form tested?</p> <p>4. Did ACMA or its staff brief or consult with any technology vendors over the scheme?</p> <p>5. If so, did those vendors include AAP or Cognitives?</p>	04/03/2019 Written

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				<p>Applications</p> <p>6. How many applications were received?</p> <p>7. What was the state-by-state breakdown of applications?</p> <p>8. How many applications were rejected before being presented to the evaluation committee?</p> <p>9. What were the reasons for those rejections?</p> <p>10. How many applications were rejected for reason that incorrect supporting documents (such as company registration extracts) were submitted?</p> <p>11. Did the ACMA point out errors to applicants who had submitted incorrect supporting documents? If not, why not?</p> <p>12. Was there an appeal or review process for unsuccessful applications? If not, why not?</p> <p>13. How many applications did the evaluation committee reject?</p> <p>14. Was weight given to applicants' membership of the Australian Press Council?</p> <p>Successful applicants</p> <p>15. Why did so many approved projects focus on content management systems?</p> <p>16. Why were projects to establish an online/web version approved?</p> <p>17. Is establishing a web-version of a publication regarded as innovation for the purposes of the fund?</p> <p>18. Would ACMA agree with publishers' statements that the process was opaque and unfair?</p> <p>19. Why were so many successful applicants based in Victoria?</p> <p>20. Does it concern the ACMA that so many successful applicants are based in Victoria?</p>	
56.	Australia Council	Bilyk	Unfunded Excellence projects	<p>Senator BILYK: Mr Collette, I don't think this will be the worst estimates that the arts or Australia Council have ever had to sit through. I want to get some information on the project grant rounds since March 2015 and the dollar value of Unfunded Excellence projects. I think now the Australia Council has a definition or criteria for Unfunded Excellence?</p>	19/02/2019 Page 75-76

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				<p>Mr Collette: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Are you able to give me a dollar value since March 2015?</p> <p>Mr Collette: I cannot with certainty. My colleague Tim Blackwell may be able to. We may have to take that on notice. You're quite correct; Unfunded Excellence is something that has our full concentration now. To be clear, what it is are those applications for grants that a peer panel of experts consider to be absolutely worth funding, hence the excellence. The unfunded bit, then, is self-explanatory. It's what the grant rounds can't afford to fund. I suppose our simple view is this is opportunity lost. It's capability building and talent lost. So it's a critical part of challenges ahead, but I don't think we have to hand, do we, Tim—</p> <p>Mr Blackwell: No.</p> <p>Mr Collette: a number since 2015. For the first time in the grants round last October, the actual applications we were able to fund were slightly less than the ones recommended by the panel of peers. But that goes to the strength also, which in itself is a good thing, of applications and the amount of applications coming through.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Can you take that on notice, though, and get back to me with that information?</p> <p>Mr Collette: Certainly will. Of course.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: You might need to do the same with this question. I'm interested in the rate of Unfunded Excellence in 2016 for the four-year funding for organisations program—the 2017-2020 program.</p> <p>Mr Collette: I'm afraid that we'll have to take that on notice.</p>	
57.	Australia Council	Bilyk	National Indigenous Arts and Cultural Authority	<p>Senator BILYK: I want to ask about the National Indigenous Arts and Cultural Authority. I think the Australia Council is the secretariat for that at the moment. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Collette: Yes. It is the secretariat. There is a broad process of consultation going on nationally, which we intend will lead to a symposium likely in November this year. Depending on the outcomes of that, that will be the end of Australia Council's role as secretariat. If it is successful, an independent steering</p>	19/02/2019 Page 76 -77

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				<p>committee would be appointed. But at the moment we continue to be assisting secretariat.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Can you give me some feedback on the consultations? Can you tell me how many meetings have been held and where they've been?</p> <p>Mr Collette: They have been national. There are 25 metropolitan and then extensive regional locations, including the Torres Strait.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: How many regional?</p> <p>Mr Collette: I don't have a number for that, Senator.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Could you take that on notice?</p> <p>Mr Collette: Yes. Of course.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: If I could get the venues—the towns or areas—that would be really helpful.</p> <p>Mr Collette: Yes.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Thanks. Are you able to tell us if there's any sort of trend, consensus or key issues emerging from these consultations?</p> <p>Mr Collette: I think it would be fair to say that there is enthusiasm around the need for this. It was a recommendation of a parliamentary inquiry. But the point of the consultation is to see whether by November we could define what NIACA would be to a certainty. Then it would be over to the steering committee to look at what might be a sustainable business case for NIACA going forward. The informed sense is that it's too early to tell.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: How many more consultations are expected to happen between now and November?</p> <p>Mr Collette: Through February?</p> <p>Mr Blackwell: Yes. Through February. I'm not sure of the exact number, but I know that we've got a lot of regional areas that we're doing through February and into March as well.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: What will happen between March and November?</p> <p>Mr Blackwell: We will look at the outcome of the evidence from those consultations and then put together a discussion paper.</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>Senator BILYK: So when you take those other questions on notice, can you tell me the projections of where else you're having these consultations?</p> <p>Mr Blackwell: Absolutely.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: When did this idea first come about? Mr Collette, first of all, I should have said congratulations on your position.</p> <p>Mr Collette: Thank you.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Can you give me a bit of background into it?</p> <p>Mr Collette: It's been considered for a very long time. My understanding is that there was a parliamentary inquiry around particularly copyright pertaining to Indigenous work. Out of that came recommendation 8, which is that the Australia Council supports work being done to see whether there could be a National Indigenous Arts and Cultural Authority that could play a hand in supporting Indigenous copyright to their work. It is something that has been talked about I think probably for decades, but it has now crystallised into this program of work. I stress that at this stage the Australia Council is playing the secretariat function.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: I do understand.</p> <p>Mr Collette: But it's through the consultation that we have to work out where we might go.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: The copyright issue is one I've asked questions on many times in estimates myself, so I'm pretty clear about that. So you had submissions? Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Collette: Yes. We are taking submissions, yes.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: When did work first begin on this? When did the Australia Council actually start doing work in this area as the secretariat?</p> <p>Mr Blackwell: I would probably take that on notice. It would have been about mid last year that this process really started in earnest in terms of the consultation process.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator BILYK: I would like a list of all those contacts you've got that are getting this information out to the Indigenous people.</p>	

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				Dr Were: We can provide you with the communications plan around that.	
58.	Screen Australia	Bilyk	Grants budget	<p>Senator BILYK: I want to have a chat about the Screen Australia budget. I think in 2018-19 you had about \$31 million budgeted for grants. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: I think what you're talking about would be that we give grants and investment. We give our money out in two different ways, so I believe that would be correct. Anything under \$500,000 and a lot of our documentary funding is grants as opposed to investments.</p> <p>Senator BILYK: Are you able to tell me out of your budget what is committed and what is not committed?</p> <p>Mr G Mason: As of this date? We normally allocate all the money within a year period. Obviously, we do it as rounds as they come through. I could take on notice the exact amount of money. I think 60 per cent of the funding is currently allocated or committed, but we would anticipate that, by 30 June, that would be fully committed.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 78
59.	OeSC	Urquhart	Ms Lynelle Briggs - review process	<p>Senator URQUHART: When was the concurrent review undertaken by Lynelle Briggs? When did that commence and when did it conclude? What steps were undertaken in the course of the review process? I have a few questions, so I will run through them.</p> <p>Mr Eccles: Run through them. I might get a couple of the officers.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How many consultation papers were issued? How many submissions were received? How many consultation meetings were held? Who did the reviewer meet with and on what dates?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: So that was the number of submissions received and the meetings?</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How many consultation papers?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: It is almost the process that Ms Briggs undertook in developing her theories. The staff date was June 2018 and the conclusion was obviously when she signed her report.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Which was October?</p> <p>Mr Eccles: On 1 October, yes. Maybe Dr Patteson or Mr Penprase can take you through the key steps and the processes. Dr Patteson: There were 27 submissions</p>	19/02/2019 Page 85-86

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				<p>received, and 22 of them were made public on the department's website. The ones that were withheld were because of confidentiality requests from the submitters.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Yes. How many consultation papers were issued?</p> <p>Dr Patteson: So in terms of the consultation process, it was an independent review. That was decided by the independent reviewer, Ms Briggs. It is our understanding that she had a number of meetings with individuals relevant to the review and obviously reviewed all of the submissions.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: How many consultation meetings were held?</p> <p>Dr Patteson: I don't know. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Who did the reviewer meet with? You said that in terms of the consultation papers there was a number of meetings with the reviewer. On what dates?</p> <p>Dr Patteson: We would have to take that on notice. As I said, it was an independent review. Whilst the department provided support to Ms Briggs in providing her with contact details where requested and, if necessary, arranging travel for her, it was certainly an independent review. So it was her determination who she met with.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: You would have the details of that because you organised the travel. Is that correct?</p> <p>Dr Patteson: We would have details of that, so I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: Could you provide me with a precise list? Are you able to get that back to us during the course of this afternoon?</p> <p>Dr Patteson: Probably not this afternoon.</p>	
60.	NBN Co	O'Neill	Service class zero	<p>Senator O'NEILL: Perhaps I can go to the situation of the number of premises that have been service class 0 over a period of time. In quarter 4 of 2017 there were one million premises not ready to connect. In quarter 2 of 2018 it remained at one million. By quarter 3 of 2018 it increased to 1.4 million. What was the driver of that increase from one to 1.3 million?</p> <p>Ms Dyer: Essentially what you saw happening there was what we call the fresh HFC footprint—the new HFC footprint. It would be interesting also to look at our</p>	19/02/2019 Page 102

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				<p>RFS number. Compared with where we were forecasting to be on our budget, we're the same amount of premises over our RFS number. So, again, it's the factor of us bringing all those premises over to NBN, if you like—all those areas from our engagement with Telstra and asset transfer. So it's us now bringing that network over, ring fencing it so that these customers aren't being communicated with. They're totally quarantined whilst we optimise and complete the build and then we're gradually releasing them back out to the market.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Basically because both Foxtel and BigPond are on a Telstra service, we need to—Katherine needs to—get access to that service so we can optimise it, do what we call the final engineering on it. Ready for service is really a definition of when we take ownership of the asset from Telstra, if you like. It is not when we make those premises ready for sale or ready to connect to the community. Really the ready-for-service number is a mechanism of transfer. You shouldn't consider that they are premises in the old definition we used to have, which is why we introduced ready to connect—ready to connect to the premises really that are for sale. In coming months you will see that number dramatically reduce, because by the end of this month all the premises that we cease the sale on will be released back to sale. And there's a lot of footprint that will be released in coming months that will take that, which are ready for service—Katherine's finishing the optimisation work. We'll then make them ready to connect.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: If you can provide me with any detail and time lines about exactly where that's going to be, on notice, that would be appreciated.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm sure we could have a look at that. I won't be able to tell you exactly, but let me hold that thought, and I'll give you an estimate in a second on that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: What I'm asking for is a more considered outline of your progress that you anticipate.</p>	
61.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Sky Muster – data allowance	Senator URQUHART: Since the changes to monthly data allowance have come into effect, what change in consumption behaviour have you observed over the Sky Muster network? Has that been nearly 12 months?	19/02/2019 Page 108

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				<p>Mr Rue: It has. I think it has been more than that, actually.</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: I don't know the answer off the top of my head.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'm hoping that the satellite expert is in the room listening to this. If they are, bingo, we'll answer the question.</p> <p>Senator URQUHART: If they are not?</p> <p>Mr Rue: We will have to take it on notice.</p>	
62.	NBN Co	O'Neill	Modem testing	<p>Senator O'NEILL: What aspects of the performance were tested, and over what period?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: That I don't have off the top of my head, but we could provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Would you, please?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Were there particular modem models that performed poorly?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: There were.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Were outliers on a pretty consistent basis? Who are the baddies and who are the goodies?</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: I think that would probably be commercial-in-confidence. I'm not sure we could share who the—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: I'm sure there's exasperation in large numbers of households across Australia. The idea is to provide transparency so that people can see and understand.</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: We did provide that transparency back to the owners of those devices and let them know, 'We believe this modem is performing at an unacceptable level. We would suggest you go back and work with your maker to get this patch, if it can be patched,' and the retailers have generally followed through with that and upgraded the performance of those modems. We're not talking about all modems, but there was a small but important segment that needed to be addressed. Again, as Steven said, it raises, I think across the board, the importance of not only the modem; the in-home wiring, the wi-fi, the devices</p>	19/02/2019 Page 116-117

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				<p>et cetera, all can feed into this performance. We're interested in it, because it ultimately can impact end users' customer experience if they've got a lot of resynchs.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: It does. We've had many conversations about that over the years. But I'm still concerned that Australians don't have the information that you've fed back to your providers. And I expect that there would be people out there who are still having these significant problems because some retailers have not responded to information that's been given to them by NBN after this testing in good faith. Which ones are the problem ones?</p> <p>Mr Rue: Again, Senator, I'm not sure that that's something that we can share, given the commercial relationships. But what I can tell you is that much of it has been resolved by the retailers, and the retailers and those particular manufacturers are aware of the issues, and, as Brad has said, much has been resolved. I'm not sure we can publish on our website that sort of information. There are commercial issues around doing that.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: I constantly worry where commercial-in-confidence is prized over the experience of Australian families—</p> <p>Mr Rue: No—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: who are compromised daily by not actually knowing that they've got a modem that everybody else who's in the know knows is a dud. This is a government owned business. It's supposed to be for the benefit of the Australian people.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Senator, that's actually why the three of us work there—because, yes, it's a business, but it's also providing what we think are really, really important, essential services to Australians.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: But it's hard to respond to a problem you've got in your own house if you don't have adequate information to do so.</p> <p>Mr Rue: There are many things you can't do, because of legal reasons or commercial reasons, that you may like to do. Look, let us see what we can provide you. I suspect we're going to come back and say that it's commercial-in-</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>confidence, but let us see what we can provide you.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Well, it's not good enough for those people who are experiencing it.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I understand that. But also, when you're running a business and you're running under laws of the land and you're running under contractual arrangements, you also have to comply with them, unfortunately.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Yes. And the higher purpose is the ethical action in the business-place, and we know a few banks that have had to figure that out. Some telcos had to as well.</p> <p>Mr Rue: I'd be very happy to talk to you about ethics all night, because I share the same concerns you have. But there are also laws one has to comply with and commercial arrangements one has to comply with. Can I just say that we will take that on notice and see what we can provide you.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Good. My next question is: can you estimate what proportion of the NBN user base might be on these dodgy modems that you consider are not fit for purpose?</p> <p>Mr Rue: It wasn't a large number, but I'll—</p> <p>Mr Whitcomb: No. It was less than 10 per cent, maybe five per cent. I'm just—</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: That's a small number when you say it as a percentage, but in terms of real lives affected how many are we talking about?</p> <p>Mr Rue: A lot of that has been addressed. I seriously do not have that information here. Can you let us take that one on notice?</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: Okay.</p> <p>Mr Rue: Let me try and answer both questions notice together, if I could.</p>	
63.	NBN Co	O'Neill	Principal repayments	<p>Senator O'NEILL: I have to go back to where you were and get my head back in the space. The \$19.4 billion, you said, would not be touched before 2024?</p> <p>Mr Rue: I don't believe so. If it is, it is a very small amount.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: But the \$2 billion you expect to raise in the private market, you would commence repaying that prior to 2024?</p> <p>Mr Rue: That is correct.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 122

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				<p>Senator O'NEILL: At what year would you commence repaying that?</p> <p>Mr Rue: In 2023, I believe. Yes, it must be because we will be cash flow positive in that year, so 2023.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: And if I heard you correctly, 100 per cent of the free cash flow would be used to pay that debt down. Is that correct?</p> <p>Mr Rue: That's correct, in the assumptions in the model. And sorry to reiterate this but, beyond 2022, it is assumption based.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: So would the remaining \$19.5 billion, after that first \$2 billion is paid down from free cash flow, then begin to be repaid in principal from 2024 to 2032?</p> <p>Mr Rue: It's either 2024 or 2025 to 2032 to be precise, but certainly I think it will be from 2025 onwards. I don't have it, but, broadly, yes.</p> <p>Senator O'NEILL: If you want to give me a more detailed answer on notice, that would be great. But we're getting somewhere here.</p>	
64.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Functions	<p>In relation to expenditure on any functions or official receptions etc. hosted by NBN Co in calendar year 2018, please provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of functions; • List of attendees; • Function venue; • Itemised list of costs (GST inclusive); • Details of any food served; • Details of any wines or champagnes served including brand and vintage; • Any available photographs of the function; and • Details of any entertainment provided. 	28/02/2019 Written
65.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Executive office upgrades	Were the furniture, fixtures or fittings of NBN Co's offices upgraded in calendar year 2018? If so, please provide an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive).	28/02/2019 Written
66.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Facilities upgrades	Were the facilities of any of NBN Co's premises upgraded in calendar year 2018, for example, staff room refurbishments, kitchen refurbishments, bathroom refurbishments, the purchase of any new fridges, coffee machines,	28/02/2019 Written

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				or other kitchen equipment? If so, please provide a detailed description of the relevant facilities upgrade together with an itemised list of costs (GST inclusive). Please provide any photographs of the upgraded facilities.	
67.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Staff travel	What was the total cost of staff travel for NBN Co employees in calendar year 2018? Please provide an itemised list of the costs of all international travel undertaken in calendar year 2018. This list should include the costs of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flights and identify the airline and class of travel; • Ground transport; • Accommodation and identify the hotels the party stayed at and the room category in which the party stayed; • Meals and other incidentals. Any available menus, receipts for meals at restaurants and the like should also be provided; and • Any available photographs documenting the travel should also be provided. 	28/02/2019 Written
68.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Media monitoring	What was NBN Co's total expenditure on media monitoring in calendar year 2018?	28/02/2019 Written
69.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Advertising and information campaigns	What was the NBN Co's total expenditure on advertising and information campaigns in calendar year 2018? What advertising and information campaigns did NBN Co run in the relevant period?	28/02/2019 Written
70.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Promotional merchandise	What was NBN Co's total expenditure on promotional merchandise in calendar year 2018? Please provide photographs or samples of all relevant promotional merchandise.	28/02/2019 Written
71.	NBN Co	Bilyk	Social media influencers	What was NBN Co's total expenditure on social media influencers during calendar year 2018? What advertising or information campaigns did NBN Co use social media	28/02/2019 Written

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				influencers to promote? Please provide a copy of all relevant social media influencer posts.																																																																																					
72.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Capacity and augmentation CAPEX	<p>The 2018 Corporate Plan contains a line item for Network Capacity and Augmentation as shown below:</p> <p>5.3 Capital expenditure</p> <p>Table 7: Capital expenditure</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>FY17(A)</th> <th>FY18</th> <th>FY19</th> <th>FY20</th> <th>FY21</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="6">Capex (\$ billion)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTP Brownfields</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTP Greenfields</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTN/B</td> <td>(2.2)</td> <td>(1.9)</td> <td>(0.8)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTC</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>(1.0)</td> <td>(0.7)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HFC</td> <td>(1.2)</td> <td>(1.8)</td> <td>(1.1)</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Wireless</td> <td>(0.3)</td> <td>(0.4)</td> <td>(0.3)</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Satellite</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total network build and activate</td> <td>(4.4)</td> <td>(5.5)</td> <td>(3.2)</td> <td>(0.8)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transit</td> <td>(0.6)</td> <td>(0.5)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> <td>(0.1)</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Network Capacity and Augmentation</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>(0.3)</td> <td>(0.3)</td> <td>(0.3)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Common</td> <td>(0.8)</td> <td>(0.7)</td> <td>(0.5)</td> <td>(0.4)</td> <td>(0.2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total capex</td> <td>(5.8)</td> <td>(7.0)</td> <td>(4.2)</td> <td>(1.6)</td> <td>(0.6)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small>Note: The numbers presented in this table correspond to the RFS base case consistent with the ranges represented in Table 5 but may vary significantly over time.</small></p> <p>However the 2019 Corporate Plan does not contain the same reporting item.</p>		FY17(A)	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	Capex (\$ billion)						FTTP Brownfields	(0.2)	(0.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	FTTP Greenfields	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	FTTN/B	(2.2)	(1.9)	(0.8)	(0.2)	0.0	FTTC	(0.1)	(1.0)	(0.7)	(0.2)	0.0	HFC	(1.2)	(1.8)	(1.1)	(0.1)	0.0	Fixed Wireless	(0.3)	(0.4)	(0.3)	0.0	0.0	Satellite	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.0	Total network build and activate	(4.4)	(5.5)	(3.2)	(0.8)	(0.2)	Transit	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.2)	(0.1)	0.0	Network Capacity and Augmentation	0.0	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.2)	Common	(0.8)	(0.7)	(0.5)	(0.4)	(0.2)	Total capex	(5.8)	(7.0)	(4.2)	(1.6)	(0.6)	04/03/2019 Written
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73.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Brownfield v Greenfield FTTP CAPEX	<p>a) Please provide a breakdown of the capacity and augmentation expenditure against each access network technology for each of those years.</p> <p>The 2019 Corporate Plan provides the following breakdown of capital expenditure:</p>						04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing																																																												
				<p>2.4.6 Capital expenditure</p> <p>Capex requirements have increased by \$3.4 billion since Corporate Plan 2018-21. The primary drivers of this include HFC optimisation, Fixed Wireless capacity upgrades, business fibre investment and</p> <p>increased FTTC footprint. These investments have been largely funded by the contingency allocated in Corporate Plan 2018-21.</p> <p>Capex will progressively relate to ongoing investment in providing increased network capacity, and in developing new network and operational capabilities to support revenue growth and improve customer experience.</p> <p>Table 8: Capital expenditure</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Capex (\$ billions)</th> <th>FY18</th> <th>FY19</th> <th>FY20</th> <th>FY21</th> <th>FY22</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FTTP</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTN/B</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTC</td> <td>0.8</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HFC</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>1.2</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed Wireless</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Satellite</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transit</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Common Capex and Other</td> <td>0.7</td> <td>0.9</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5.7</td> <td>6.0</td> <td>3.6</td> <td>1.5</td> <td>1.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals.</p> <p>a) Please provide a breakdown of the FTTP capital expenditure line item into FTTP brownfields, and FTTP greenfields, for FY18 to FY22.</p> <p>b) What is the assumed CPP for FTTP greenfields in FY22?</p>	Capex (\$ billions)	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FTTP	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	FTTN/B	1.6	1.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	FTTC	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.1	0.0	HFC	1.3	1.2	0.6	0.1	0.2	Fixed Wireless	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	Satellite	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Transit	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	Common Capex and Other	0.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.3		5.7	6.0	3.6	1.5	1.2	
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76.	NBN Co	Urquhart	RFS by technology	Please provide the current number of cumulative premises RFS for each technology, to at least one decimal point, for each of the following technologies.	04/03/2019 Written																																																												

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Technology	RFS (at least two decimal points)																				
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77.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Staffing profile	<p>Can NBN Co please compile and present its staffing profile for each financial year as of July 1, and for present as of March 2019</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>July 2015</th> <th>July 2016</th> <th>July 2017</th> <th>July 2018</th> <th>July 2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Employees</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		July 2015	July 2016	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019	Employees						04/03/2019 Written				
	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019																
Employees																					
78.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Employees	<p>Please provide the following information on NBNs headcount and budget:</p> <p>a) How many staff do NBN currently employ? Please provide a breakdown for temporary staff (contractors)</p> <p>b) How many staff work in the company's IT department?</p> <p>c) What is the current head count for NBNs corporate affairs and public relations functions? Please break down by employment band.</p> <p>d) What budget has been allocated for NBNs Corporate Affairs division in FY2018-19?</p>	04/03/2019 Written																
79.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Missing 300,000 premises	With reference to the following QON:	04/03/2019 Written																


Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <p>200 Anne Urquhart Environment and Communications 2018-19 Supplementary budget estimates Communications and the Arts Missing 300,000 premises NBN Co Limited</p> <p>Status Answered</p> <p>Hearing Date 23/10/2018</p> <p>Overdue No</p> <p>Asked Of NBN Co Limited</p> <p>Proof Hansard Page/Written Written</p> <p>Portfolio Question Number 200</p> <p>Question</p> <p>a) 300,000 premises disappeared from the rollout forecasts in the 2018 Corporate Plan as the premises were deemed not to exist in the real world. Can NBN Co confirm that despite the latest \$2.1 billion in peak funding the rollout is also serving 0.3 million fewer homes than forecast in the 2017 Corporate Plan?</p> <p>b) Can NBN confirm that based on its own Corporate Plan assumptions these 300,000 premises would have been generating up to \$137 million in revenue per annum?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>a) Yes. The reduction in the total number premises in the 2018 Corporate Plan is due to premise counts at the time of RTC being lower than what initial design volumes anticipated. As the rollout progresses, NBN Co is better able to predict the final premises count. For example, the 2010 Corporate Plan estimated there would be 13 million premises in Australia at the end of the rollout, 1.4 million more than our current estimates.</p> <p>b) We have not quantified the impact on revenue, but as mentioned in Question on Notice 206 from Supplementary Senate Estimates in 2017, it would not be material.</p> </div> <p>Can NBN Co please confirm whether an additional 300,000 premises, with a 74 per cent take-up rate, generating ARPU of between \$45 to \$51, would have generated between \$120 million to \$136 million? If NBN Co disputes this, please explain why.</p>	
80.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Take-up rate assumed in	a) The NBN Corporate Plan forecasts a peak-funding requirement of \$50.9 billion. What take-up rate is this based on? Is it 73 per cent, 74 per cent, or 75 per	04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
			Corporate Plan	cent? Given the peak funding is not presented as a range it cannot be all three. Please confirm which take-up rate is actually assumed in the current model.	
81.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Take-up	a) What is the take-up rate in FTTN areas where the 18 month switch over is complete? b) What is the take-up rate in Fixed-Wireless areas which have been active for 18 months?	04/03/2019 Written
82.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Cycle time inclusions	With reference to the following QON: <p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 218</p> NBN Co Limited Hansard Ref: Written, 23/04/2018 Topic: Cycle time Senator Anne Urquhart asked: What is the cycle time for deploying the following technologies once in the construction phase: a) FTTN b) FTTC Answer: a) As at 27 April 2018 the current cycle time is approximately 221 days from construction issued to ready for service for FTTN. b) The FTTC network is only in the very early stages of deployment. As such, an average cycle time is not yet available. <hr/>	04/03/2019 Written
83.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Usage	Does the cycle time include design and construction? Or just construction? a) What is the average monthly download of a user on the NBN network?	04/03/2019

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				b) What is the median monthly download of a user on the NBN network?	Written
84.	NBN Co	Urquhart	FTTN	<p>With reference to the following QON:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 202</p> <p>NBN Co Limited Hansard Ref: Written, 05/11/2018</p> <p>Topic: FTTN Nodes Senator Anne Urquhart asked:</p> <p>a) How many FTTN nodes have NBN deployed? b) How many FTTN nodes does NBN expect would need to be deployed to support the base-case in the 2019 Corporate plan?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>a) As at 12 November 2018: 23,767 FTTN nodes. b) NBN Co plans to deploy a total of 27,000 to 28,000 FTTN nodes. This may change subject to ongoing network planning and serviceability requirements.</p> <hr/> <p>a) Does this include FTTB, or just FTTN nodes?</p>	04/03/2019 Written
85.	NBN Co	Urquhart	FTTB	<p>a) How many premises does NBN expect will be covered by FTTN (not including FTTB) by the end of the rollout? b) How many FTTB premises have been switched to FTTC since the last Corporate Plan?</p>	04/03/2019 Written
86.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Copper purchases	a) How much copper has NBN purchased to date?	04/03/2019 Written
87.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Consultancy spend	a) How much has NBN spent on advisory and consultants in FY18-19 to date?	04/03/2019 Written
88.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Service Faults	With reference to the below:	04/03/2019

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
			breakdown	<p style="text-align: center;">Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice Supplementary Budget Estimates October 2018 Communications Portfolio NBN Co Limited</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 206</p> <p>NBN Co Limited Hansard Ref: Written, 05/11/2018</p> <p>Topic: Service Faults Senator Anne Urquhart asked: Please provide <u>the total number</u> of service faults lodged with NBN in FY17-18.</p> <p>Answer: The total number of service faults in FY18 (409,821) equates to one fault per 100 active premises per month.</p> <p>a) Please provide a breakdown of the 409,821 service faults in FY17-18 by each access technology.</p>	Written
89.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Service Faults – FY18-19	a) Please provide the total number of service faults lodged with NBN Co in FY18-19 to date.	04/03/2019 Written
90.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Service Faults – FY16-17	a) Please provide the total number of service faults lodged with NBN Co in FY16-17 to date.	04/03/2019 Written
91.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Missed appointments	Please provide <u>the number</u> of missed technician appointments in FY18-19 to date.	04/03/2019 Written
92.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Counterfactual	a) Was the FTTP counterfactual in the 2016 NBN Corporate Plan a costing of	04/03/2019

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				continuing with the original FTTP rollout plan, uninterrupted, from September 2013 - yes or no?	Written
93.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Satisfied customers	In relation to the level of satisfied, neutral, and dissatisfied customers as at 31 October 2018 (see QON 214 from previous Estimates) — What percentage of customers scored 3, 4 or 5?	04/03/2019 Written
94.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Recruitment of new CEO	With reference to the following QON: <p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 215</p> <p>NBN Co Limited Hansard Ref: Written, 05/11/2018</p> <p>Topic: Recruitment of new CEO Senator Anne Urquhart asked: What costs were incurred by NBN Co in searching for and recruiting a new CEO? Please include total sum and break out individual procurements.</p> <p>Answer: This is confidential under the terms of NBN Co's arrangement with the search firm.</p> <p>This response is unacceptable. NBN Co is spending the money of Australian taxpayers, and should be prepared to account for how it spends that money. a) Does NBN Co believe it is above accepted standards of accountability? b) What costs were incurred by NBN Co in searching for and recruiting a new CEO?</p>	04/03/2019 Written
95.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Internal rate of return	Please confirm the internal rate of return in the Corporate Plan accounts for upgrading the NBN fixed-wireless network to 5G.	04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
96.	NBN Co	Urquhart	The multi- technology mix - cost	In 2013, Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull announced they would deliver the NBN for \$29.5 billion. Can NBN Co confirm the peak funding requirement for the multi-technology mix is now \$50.9 billion?	04/03/2019 Written
97.	NBN Co	Urquhart	The multi- technology mix - timeframe	In 2013, Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull announced every Australian would have access to minimum speeds of 25 Mbps by the end of 2016. a) How premises were RFS by the end of 2016? Can NBN Co confirm it was 3.23 million? b) How many premises are expected to be RFS at the end of the rollout? Is it 11.7 million?	04/03/2019 Written
98.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Karina Keisler tweet	On 22 October 2017, the same day ABC 4 Corners aired a show on the NBN, the former head of NBN Corporate Affairs re-tweeted the following post:  a) Does the new NBN CEO endorse this view? b) If a current member of the NBN Co executive committee re-tweeted this content, would they face disciplinary action?	04/03/2019 Written
99.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Redundancy payments	a) How many redundancy packages were paid out in FY2017-18? b) What was the average payment?	04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing																																																																								
100.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Salaries	<p>With reference to salary packages of employees on the NBN Co payroll please provide the following information:</p> <p>a) Number of employees with a salary less than \$100,000 b) Number of employees with a salary between \$100,000 and \$200,000? c) Number of employees with a salary between \$200,000 and \$300,000? d) Number of employees with a salary between \$300,000 and above. e) Total number of employees</p> <p>Please provide both the number of current employees in each band (rather than just those aligned with NBN Co systems), and if desired, also the proportion.</p>	04/03/2019 Written																																																																								
101.	NBN Co	Urquhart	TC-4	<p>a) At this present times, what is cost under the dimension based CVC discount (CVC TC-4) for 1 Mb of CVC? b) What is cost for 1 Mb of CVC after 1 June 2019?</p>	04/03/2019 Written																																																																								
102.	NBN Co	Urquhart	RFS by State - present	<p>Please provide a breakdown of premises RFS by state, by access technology, as of present. Do not reference the weekly report, as that does not provide the breakdown which has been requested.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>FTTP</th> <th>FTTN/B</th> <th>HFC</th> <th>FTTC</th> <th>FW</th> <th>SAT</th> <th>TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>ACT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NSW</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>VIC</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TAS</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SA</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>QLD</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		FTTP	FTTN/B	HFC	FTTC	FW	SAT	TOTAL	ACT								NSW								VIC								TAS								SA								WA								NT								QLD								04/03/2019 Written
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103.	NBN Co	Urquhart	RFS by State – end of rollout in FY2020	<p>NBN recently indicated that over 99 per cent of the rollout is built, in design, or in construction.</p> <p>Please provide a breakdown of premises RFS by state, by access technology, forecast at the end of the rollout in FY2020. Do not reference the weekly report,</p>	04/03/2019 Written																																																																								

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104.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Copper speeds	<p>a) Does NBN Co send technicians out to investigate fault tickets where a households is receiving a speed of less than 25 Mbps, but is still within a co-existence period?</p> <p>b) What if that household was receiving speeds well in excess of 25 Mbps when they first connected, only to find the speed dropped below 25 Mbps at a later point in time?</p>	04/03/2019 Written																																																																								
105.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Technology Choice	<p>1) With regards to the Area Switch Application for 19 residences which sought to have FTTP installed under the Technology Choice Program (Customer Reference Number AYCA-462WAJ Case No 511066-252077563):</p> <p>a. How did NBN Co manage to reduce its initial cost estimate by a factor of four (from \$100,000 to \$25,000) within a 2 month period? To what specific differences is the \$75,000 reduction attributed?</p> <p>b. Is NBN Co able to provide the applicant with a bill of materials? If no, why not?</p> <p>2) With regards to the aforementioned Area Switch Build Quote:</p>	04/03/2019 Written																																																																								


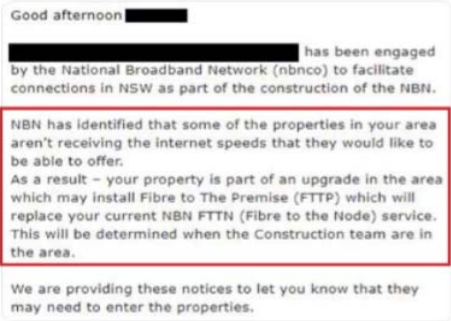
Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>a. Were there any savings allowed for in this Area Switch Build Quote due to avoided build costs?</p> <p>b. What was the value of the avoided build costs included in this Area Switch Build Quote?</p> <p>c. Did the Build Quote for this Area Switch Application include any costs associated with fibre run in the streets external to the building? If yes, for what length?</p> <p>d. There is already NBN Co fibre that passes through the pit directly outside these premises, servicing a FTTB install approximately 50 metres further along the road. Did NBN Co take this fibre run into consideration when generating the Build Quote?</p> <p>3) With regards to the aforementioned Area Switch Application:</p> <p>a. Why was a formal contract offered within one week and then not provided for a period of over 5 months?</p> <p>b. The applicants refused to accept the refund of their \$1100 application fee, refused to provide their banking details, and requested to proceed with the upgrade. How and why did NBN Co force the funds back into the applicant bank account approximately 11 months later, without ever having been provided with the banking details?</p> <p>4) The applicants have been continuously requesting to proceed since mid-2017. NBN Co have generated a Build Quote to ensure there is no cost to NBN Co or to the taxpayer. Why is NBN Co so determined to disallow this upgrade to FTTP?</p> <p>5) Is it still NBN Co policy to refuse technology choice applications for applicants seeking to go from HFC to FTTP?</p> <p>a. If yes, what are the exact reasons why?</p> <p>b. How could a build quote accurate to the cent have been generated during 2017, given these reasons?</p> <p>c. Given the answers to (a) through (c), why did NBN Co accept the application, carry out 2 site visits, provide 3 quotes, and drag the process out for over 2 years thus far?</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>6) If Technology Choice Upgrades in general continue to proceed on a piecemeal basis based on applications as they are made (as opposed to undertaking a whole-of-area upgrade) is there a risk of running out of physical space for future upgrades at some points within the existing ducts or in other areas where space is limited?</p> <p>7) Instead of taking a piecemeal approach, can planning for a whole-of-area upgrade to fibre at once mitigate the risks of running out of physical space within the existing duct network or in other areas where space is limited?</p> <p>8) Has NBN Co undertaken any investigation into the possibility of investing in deploying overlaying fibre infrastructure in selected areas, and allowing users to pay for just the street-to-premises cost of FTTP installation, as part of future Technology Choice or other wider area-based upgrade programs?</p> <p>9) The specific Area Switch Application referred to previously is located within a medium to high density suburb of inner-west Sydney that has high internet usage demands, and existing duct networks. Would NBN Co consider a whole-of-area investment in deploying fibre in the streets, and allow premises within this general vicinity area to upgrade to FTTP on the basis of paying only for the street-to-premises cost of installation for this area?</p> <p>10) How many Technology Choice Applications have been made since 28 July 2016 (based on an applicant paying an application fee to NBN Co, regardless of whether that fee was subsequently returned)? Please break down by Area Switch vs Individual Switch and by financial year.</p> <p>11) How many Applications made since 28 July 2016 were subsequently withdrawn either by NBN Co or by the Applicant?</p> <p>12) How many applications made since 28 July 2016 have had their money refunded? Under what circumstances is a refund offered?</p> <p>13) Does NBN Co ever provide verbal estimates of Technology Choice Program costs in response to enquiries, either numerical estimates or stated as ranges such as "tens of thousands" of dollars?</p> <p>14) How many such verbal estimates have been provided by NBN Co since 28</p>	

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing								
				<p>July 2016 in response to enquiries about a possible Technology Choice Program upgrade?</p> <p>15) Does NBN Co keep a record of such queries, or of the verbal estimates provided, where such enquiries did not subsequently progress to having an application fee being paid?</p>									
106.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Peak funding range	<p>With reference to the QON below:</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>136</td> <td>Anne Urquhart</td> <td>Environment and Communications</td> <td>2017-18 Additional estimates</td> <td>Communications and the Arts</td> <td>IRR in Corporate Plan</td> <td>NBN Co Limited</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>Status Answered</p> <p>Hearing Date 27/02/2018</p> <p>Overdue No</p> <p>Asked Of NBN Co Limited</p> <p>Proof Hansard Page/Written Written</p> <p>Portfolio Question Number 136</p> <p>Question</p> <p>a) NBN provides an IRR range in its Corporate Plans. What are the variables which determine the top and bottom of the reported range?</p> <p>Please describe the key variables and the values of the variables which are used as inputs to return the top and bottom end of the reported IRR.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As Mr Rue has explained in previous hearings, the IRR range provided in the Corporate Plan is based on calculations including the upper and lower limits of the reported peak funding range.</p> <p>Download question with answer</p> <p>1) The 2019 Corporate Plan no longer includes a peak-funding range. What precise take-up rate is the \$50.9 billion peak funding forecast based on?</p> <p>2) What take-up rate was the \$51 billion top end peak funding forecast based on in the 2018 Corporate Plan?</p>	136	Anne Urquhart	Environment and Communications	2017-18 Additional estimates	Communications and the Arts	IRR in Corporate Plan	NBN Co Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	04/03/2019 Written
136	Anne Urquhart	Environment and Communications	2017-18 Additional estimates	Communications and the Arts	IRR in Corporate Plan	NBN Co Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>						
107.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Activations by technology	<p>Please provide the number of cumulative premises activated for each technology, to at least two decimal points, for each of the following technologies.</p>	04/03/2019 Written								

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108.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Missed appointments – total to date	What is the total number of missed appointments to date, based on what it has recorded?	04/03/2019 Written																
109.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Custom remediation	a) How many remediation cases does NBN currently have open? b) How many remediation cases have been opened? c) How many custom remediation solutions has NBN actually performed? Please answer all three as separately – noting that in QON217 from 2017-18 additional Estimates NBN Co did not answer each question.	04/03/2019 Written																
110.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Former head of NBN Corporate Affairs	a) In June 2017 it was reported the former head of NBN Corporate Affairs had been promoted to the Executive Committee to perform what was, in effect, the same role. Ms Keisler then Departed NBN Co in August 2018. By how much did this promotion increase Ms Keisler’s final severance package? b) Please outline what severance entitlements are paid to departing members of the NBN executive committee, and how a near-term promotion would impact on the quantum of those benefits.	04/03/2019 Written																
111.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Early FTTN	Please list the first 50 FSA’s where FTTN was deployed.	04/03/2019																

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
			deployments	For each please include the date the area went RFS, and if possible, a general description of the geographical area.	Written
112.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Early HFC deployments	Please list the first 50 FSA's where HFC was deployed. For each please include the date the area went RFS, and if possible, a general description of the geographical area.	04/03/2019 Written
113.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Peak funding	<p>With reference to the following QON:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 223</p> <p>NBN Co Limited Hansard Ref: Written, 05/11/2018</p> <p>Topic: Peak funding Senator Anne Urquhart asked:</p> <p>a) The NBN CEO has indicated the wholesale pricing discounts increased the peak funding requirement by \$700-800 million. Please provide the underlying calculations to support this claim.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>The peak funding impact is calculated based on the forecast ARPU reduction from the wholesale pricing discounts, multiplied by the forecast average end-users in each of the financial years up to peak funding.</p> <p>The forecast ARPU reduction is reflected in the Corporate Plan 2019-22 ARPU projection of \$51 in FY22, which represents a reduction against the prior year's Corporate Plan 2018-21 where ARPU was forecast to be \$52 in FY21.</p> <p>The forecast average end users are based on the activation profiles as set out in the Corporate Plan 2019-22.</p> <p>Please explain how a \$1 reduction in ARPU, and a 1 year delay, has added \$700-800 to peak funding. Please provide the calculation to support the CEO's claim.</p>	04/03/2019 Written
114.	NBN Co	Urquhart	FTTP cycle time	What is the cycle time for FTTP?	04/03/2019

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
					Written
115.	NBN Co	Urquhart	FTTP overbuild	<p>With reference to QON230 from Supplementary Budget Estimates</p> <p>Topic: FTTP overbuild Senator Anne Urquhart asked:</p> <p>a) Can NBN confirm whether it has overbuilt, or is planning to overbuild, any existing FTTN areas with FTTC or FTTP? If yes, where? And why?</p> <p>b) Was this notice issued by NBNC Co or an NBN construction partner? If yes, please explain the circumstances.</p> <div>  </div> <div>  </div> <p>Answer:</p> <p>a) As NBN Co has confirmed on previous occasions, if a premises doesn't achieve the required minimum peak speed of 25/5Mbps, then a design review is conducted to validate the most viable technical solution to remediate the location. NBN Co may construct a micro-node (CSD), or use other technologies such as FTTP, and in the future FTTC will also be a solution available to deploy.</p> <p>a) NBN Co have not answered where this overbuild occurred. Please</p>	04/03/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing										
				provide the geographical location. b) How many premises were overbuilt?											
116.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Fixed-wireless congestion	a) Please complete the following table: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Average busy hour speed</th> <th>% of total cells</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><3mbps</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3-6 mbps</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6~12mbps</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>12~25mbps</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Average busy hour speed	% of total cells	<3mbps		3-6 mbps		6~12mbps		12~25mbps		04/03/2019 Written
Average busy hour speed	% of total cells														
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117.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Scott Morrison	a) Why has Scott Morrison's electorate received more fibre to the curb than any other electorate in the country? b) How many premises in Tasmania are due to receive Fibre to the Curb?	04/03/2019 Written										
118.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Copper purchases	a) How many metres of new copper has NBN purchased to date?	04/03/2019 Written										
119.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Internal Rate of Return	a) If NBN market share dropped to 65 per cent from FY23, would this push the IRR to between 1.6 and 2 per cent?	04/03/2019 Written										
120.	NBN Co	Urquhart	FTTC	a) Have any current members of the NBN Co Board, who also happen to be Chairman of companies which supply FTTC hardware, advocated for FTTC overbuild in fixed-wireless areas? b) If yes, which Board member was it? c) How does NBN Co manage such conflicts of interest?	04/03/2019 Written										
121.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Cell and tower counts	a) What is the bandwidth capacity in Mbps of a call (sector) on the fixed-wireless network? b) What is the average number of premises covered by each fixed-wireless cell?	04/03/2019 Written										
122.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Copper lines	a) How many FTTN services are currently achieving a layer 2 sync speed of less than 25 Mbps? Please provide both the total number and as a proportion of total active services.	04/03/2019 Written										

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing														
123.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Cumulative revenue	a) Please provide cumulative revenue since the beginning of the project up to 31 December 2018.	04/03/2019 Written														
124.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Cumulative OPEX	b) Please provide cumulative OPEX since the beginning of the project up to up to 31 December 2018.	04/03/2019 Written														
125.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Cumulative CAPEX	c) Please provide cumulative CAPEX on each technology since the beginning of the project up to up to 31 December 2018. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Technology</th> <th>Cumulative CAPEX To up to 1 July 2018.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>FTTP</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTN/B</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FTTC</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>HFC</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed wireless</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Satellite</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Technology	Cumulative CAPEX To up to 1 July 2018.	FTTP		FTTN/B		FTTC		HFC		Fixed wireless		Satellite		04/03/2019 Written
Technology	Cumulative CAPEX To up to 1 July 2018.																		
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Fixed wireless																			
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126.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Interest rate on private debt	a) Is NBN Co confident that if an incoming Government market tested their claim that the company could refinance a total of \$21.4 in debt at 3.96 per cent, that NBN Co would not be exposed as misleading on this particular matter? b) Does NBN have documentary evidence, or analysis, from a suitably qualified professional, lender or advisory firm, which states that in their opinion the NBN company, can refinance a total of \$21.4 billion in debt at 3.96 per cent? If yes, please name them.	04/03/2019 Written														
127.	NBN Co	Urquhart	Calls to call centre	With reference to the NBN public-facing contact centre number: a) How many calls have been made to the 1800 687 6262 number in FY18-19? Please break down by month.	04/03/2019 Written														
128.	NBN Co	Urquhart	NBN research with Alpha Beta – Connecting Australia report	With reference to the following QON	04/03/2019 Written														

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p style="text-align: right;">Question No: 255</p> <p>NBN Co Limited Hansard Ref: Written, 05/11/2018</p> <p>Topic: NBN research with Alpha Beta – Connecting Australia report Senator Anne Urquhart asked: Please refer to http://www.connectingaustralia.com.au/pdf/Connecting_Australia_Report.pdf</p> <p>Please provide a list of all the SA2 areas (or other statistical grouping) where NBN was available at the time of the Census in August 2016.</p> <p>Presumably, such a list would exist in order for the research to compare in social and economic impacts of NBN ready areas versus areas where the NBN was not available.</p> <p>Answer:</p> <p>NBN Co rollout data does not correlate to SA2 areas or other statistical groupings. Construction of the network is based on fibre service area modules, and we build the network out in stages. For this reason, parts of a suburb or SA2 area may become ready for service, while other parts are still under construction.</p> <p>For the Connecting Australia research, Alpha Beta analysed geospatial data on the nbn™ access network rollout to identify regions with high and low presence of the nbn™ access network. The methodology for their research is available here: http://www.alphabeta.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/AlphaBeta-Connecting-Australia-Project-Summary-methodology.pdf</p> <p>a) Please attach the geospatial data set that was supplied to Alpha Beta, which enabled them to analyse data against the 2016 Census.</p>	
129.	Australia Post	Chisholm	Print Post	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does Print Post attract a discount off the Standard Postage rates? 2. If “Yes”, what was the dollar value of the income generated from Print Post in each of the last three financial years? 3. Can Australia Post advise how many random audits were undertaken of its delivery contractors? And how many (if any) actual or potential issues were identified? What action is taken in monitoring any actual or potential issues? 	21/02/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
130.	Australia Post	Whish- Wilson	Bank@Post charges	<p>At Supplementary Budget Estimates in October 2018, Ms Holgate stated that Australia Post had “put forward three different proposals” in respect of the fee structure for ADIs participating in Bank@Post.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What were these three proposals? - Were these three different proposals presented to all ADIs participating in Bank@Post? If not, which ADIs were presented with which of these three proposals; and what was the reason that not all ADIs were presented with each of the three proposals? - Were these three proposals intended to apply equally to all ADIs; or were some proposals structured differently for major banks? - What fee structure for ADIs participating in Bank@Post has Australia Post settled upon? Is Australia Post’s new fee structure the same for all ADIs? - When was this fee structure decided? Was it decided upon for all ADIs at the same time? - Has Australia Post considered the impact of its new fee structure on all ADIs? In particular, has Australia Post considered whether its new fee structure might disproportionately disbenefit small ADIs? - Did ANZ’s refusal to agree to the new fee structure influence for the major banks influence the fee structure set for other ADIs? <p>At Supplementary Budget Estimates in October 2018, Ms Holgate also stated that Australia Post we charging an “access fee, and the more times you use it, you pay a varying transaction fee”; and that this was application to “only the big four.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can you confirm that this hybrid of fixed and variable costs only applies to the major banks? <p>Generally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What discretion does Australia Post have regarding the fee structure of Bank@Post? - Can Australia Post set a fee structure based on the size of on ADI? - Can Australia Post set a fee structure based on the number of transaction 	28/02/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>handled for an ADI?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can Australia Post set fees to ensure cost recovery? - Has Australia Post set fees to ensure cost recovery? - Does Australia Post have the power to compel ADIs to participate in Bank@Post? If not, has Australia Post sought this power? - Do any of the financial regulators have the power to compel ADIs to participate in Bank@Post? If so, has Australia Post sought the cooperation of financial regulators in exercising this power? 	
131.	ABC	Cameron	Employment of Mr Tetlow	<p>Senator Fifield: Senator, given the ABC aren't appearing for these estimates, what we can undertake to do is to take your questions on notice.</p> <p>Senator CAMERON: Okay. Can you take on notice the question as to how Mr Tetlow became employed and who directly employed Mr Tetlow? Can you also take on notice the question of whether this position was advertised generally? Could you also take on notice whether Mr Keenan approached the ABC in relation to the employment of Mr Tetlow and whether the proper procedures were followed by the ABC in relation to the engagement of Mr Tetlow?</p> <p>Senator Fifield: We'll take those questions on notice and convey them to the ABC. As is the practice, when the ABC reply, the advice that is provided is that of the ABC unmoderated.</p>	19/02/2019 Page 15-16
132.	ABC	McGrath	Human Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are all ABC job roles and positions advertised internally and externally? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) If two candidates for a job role are of equal competency and hold matching qualifications, does a candidate's gender impact on decisions to select a candidate for a position? i. If no, how does the ABC achieve its gender diversity targets? 2. Does the ABC prioritise internal applications for job roles over external applications? 3. Will the ABC be advertising externally to fill the position of Q&A host, once the current host has departed? 	28/02/2019 Written

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				<p>4. Does the ABC prioritise recruitment for job roles based on gender?</p> <p>5. Why does the ABC Annual Report 2017-18 Volume II identify targets of 50% women in senior executive roles, but only 20% women in technologist roles? a) Why is a 50% target not set for the technologist role?</p> <p>6. Noting that the gender compositions of the Administrative/Professional pay classification is 71.06% female and 28.94% male (17-18 Annual Report, V II), has the ABC set targets to ensure that there is 50% male representation across all ABC team roles? a) If no, why not?</p> <p>7. When identifying potential candidates for leadership development programs what key performance indicators does the ABC look for? a) If two candidates for a leadership development program were of equal competency and held matching qualifications, does a candidate's gender impact on decisions to select a candidate?</p>	
133.	ABC	McGrath	Marketing budget	<p>1. What is the ABC's marketing budget?</p> <p>2. Please provide a general overview of how the marketing budget is allocated.</p> <p>3. What are the desired outcomes from the ABC's marketing spend?</p> <p>4. Please provide a specific breakdown of what the ABC is attempting to achieve through the use of its marketing budget.</p>	28/02/2019 Written
Spill over hearing Wednesday, 6 March 2019					
134.	ABC	Keneally	Efficiency Review cost	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Is the ABC aware of what the efficiency review cost Australian taxpayers, either in terms of the work by the independent reviewers, the department, the SBS or the ABC itself?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: No. I think that's a question best directed at either the minister or the department.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: What about an estimate of what it cost the ABC?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'm unsure; I could take that on notice. I don't think we engaged anyone to help us with the efficiency review, but I'll confirm on notice for you whether there was any external cost. There was certainly a lot of internal time</p>	06/03/2019 Page 5

Number	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Proof Hansard Page & Hearing Date or In Writing
				taken to provide information to the reviewers and KordaMentha, who were involved at the time. I can estimate that for you as well.	
135.	ABC	Hanson-Young	Redundancies	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: So we're getting close to \$450 million, really. That's a lot of money to lose from the ABC budget, right?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: Yes.</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: What's been the impact on jobs at the ABC over this time?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I don't have the information to hand in front of me, but if you mean total number of staff—</p> <p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Anderson: we've reduced our workforce, certainly from 2014 levels. I think from memory, and I'll confirm to you on notice what they've been since 2014, the numbers had dropped quite significantly down to I think 2016-17 and then they came up a little bit in 2017-18, but were still below the levels they were in 2014. I'm going to offer another stat—the one that I do know—the percentage of casual staff of our workforce was 12 per cent in 2014, and it's now 10 per cent.</p>	06/03/2019 Page 8
136.	ABC	Hanson-Young	Landline complaints	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you. There was a story this year done for <i>Landline</i> in relation to the cotton industry. Have you received any complaints about that?</p> <p>Mr Sunderland: That I would have to take on notice. I'm afraid I don't know.</p>	06/03/2019 Page 9
137.	ABC	Hanson-Young	Soft Power Review	<p>Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Just to be clear, did DFAT ask you to participate in this and to feed something into it or did the ABC do that off its own back?</p> <p>Mr Anderson: I'll confirm that on notice, but my understanding is that we were asked to put in input and put a submission in to the review. Whether that was from DFAT or the Department of Communications and the Arts, I'm unsure.</p>	06/03/2019 Page 14