



23 February 2018

Ms Susan Cardell  
Committee Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

Dear Ms Cardell

**ANAO Report No.16 (2017-18) Administration of the National Broadband Network Satellite Support Scheme**

Thank you for your letter of 11 December 2017 in which you requested that we provide explanatory text showing that there is now a practice in place whereby staff appropriately document the reasons a variance (from the requirements in the **nbn** Purchasing Rules) is necessary and seek approval from the relevant delegate specified in the **nbn** Delegation of Authority Policy.

In response, we would like to provide you with the following update.

Overall, where **nbn** enters into contractual arrangements with third parties the **nbn** Purchasing Rules must be applied. However, we recognise that in some unusual and currently unforeseen circumstances it may be appropriate to apply the **nbn** Purchasing Rules with some specific variations.

**nbn** has updated and implemented the **nbn** Purchasing Rules to recognise the potential for such circumstances to arise, and expanded the governance framework and supporting procedures set out in those Rules.

This is intended to facilitate, under the **nbn** Purchasing Rules, the timely identification of cases where some variation may be appropriate together with the subsequent documentation and approval (in alignment with the **nbn** Delegation of Authority Policy) to the extent that variations are undertaken.

**nbn** welcomed the ANAO's positive findings about **nbn**'s administration of the NSS Scheme and accepted the recommendation made by the ANAO.

We also appreciate the JCPAA's consideration of the ANAO Report and enquiry in relation to our implementation of the recommendation.

Should you have any further queries on this matter please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Rue  
Chief Financial Officer

