

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Additional Estimates Hearings February 2014**

**Communications Portfolio**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 96**

**Program No. NBN Co Limited**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Reviews**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many new reviews (defined as review, inter-departmental group, inquiry, internal review or similar activity) have been commenced? Please list them including:
  - a. the date they were ordered
  - b. the date they commenced
  - c. the minister responsible
  - d. the department responsible
  - e. the nature of the review
  - f. their terms of reference
  - g. the scope of the review
  - h. Whom is conducting the review
  - i. the number of officers, and their classification level, involved in conducting the review
  - j. the expected report date
  - k. the budgeted, projected or expected costs
  - l. If the report will be tabled in parliament or made public
2. For any review commenced or ordered since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any external people, companies or contractors being engaged to assist or conduct the review?
  - a. If so, please list them, including their name and/or trading name/s and any known alias or other trading names
  - b. If so, please list their managing director and the board of directors or equivalent
  - c. If yes, for each is the cost associated with their involvement, including a break down for each cost item
  - d. If yes, for each, what is the nature of their involvement
  - e. If yes, for each, are they on the lobbyist register, provide details.
  - f. If yes, for each, what contact has the Minister or their office had with them
  - g. If yes, for each, who selected them
  - h. If yes, for each, did the minister or their office have any involvement in selecting them,
    - i. If yes, please detail what involvement it was
    - ii. If yes, did they see or provided input to a short list
    - iii. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
    - iv. If yes, did this involve any verbal discussions with the department
    - v. If yes, on what dates did this involvement occur
3. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews are on-going?
  - a. Please list them.
  - b. What is the current cost to date expended on the reviews?

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4. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, have any reviews been stopped, paused or ceased? Please list them.
5. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, what reviews have concluded? Please list them.
6. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013, how many reviews have been provided to Government? Please list them and the date they were provided.
7. When will the Government be responding to the respective reviews that have been completed?
8. What reviews are planned?
  - a. When will each planned review be commenced?
  - b. When will each of these reviews be concluded?
  - c. When will government respond to each review?
  - d. Will the government release each review?
  - e. If so, when, If not, why not?

#### Answer:

1. Since the Supplementary Budget Estimates on 19 November 2013 only one review has commenced the: **Fixed Wireless and Satellite Review**
  - a. It commenced on the 12 December 2013 and was a recommendation of the Strategic Review.
  - b. 3 February 2014.
  - c. Minister for Communications.
  - d. NBN Co was responsible for this review.
  - e. Internal Review - To consider strategic options available to NBN Co to cost effectively provide coverage to areas outside the fixed line footprint, as well as considering the optimal model to provide this coverage.
  - f. See (e) above
  - g. The review team will seek input from NBN Co staff members across the company, particularly those who work within the Satellite and Fixed Wireless Program teams. They will also be reaching out to contracted suppliers, industry experts, relevant Government departments and agencies and other external parties.
  - h. Boston Consulting Group (BCG) has been selected to work with NBN Co.
  - i. The Review is led by one full-time NBN Co staff member (General Manager level) supported by one part-time Manager. A number of other NBN Co staff were involved to assist, where required. BCG has assigned 10 staff on average plus a number of expert advisers at levels from Partner to Analyst.
  - j. 7 May 2014.
  - k. BCG's Consultancy Fee will be a fixed fee of \$1,576,055 excluding GST (inclusive of all expenses except travel outside Sydney).
  - l. The report has been made public, with appropriate redactions.

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2. Yes
  - a. Boston Consulting Group (BCG).
  - b. Boston Consulting Australia and New Zealand is the local operation of an international group operating in 80 countries. More information about its Executive Committee is available online [http://www.bcg.com/about\\_bcg/default.aspx](http://www.bcg.com/about_bcg/default.aspx)
  - c. For the Fixed Wireless and Satellite Review see 1(k) above.
  - d. Providing expert advice to NBN Co on the Fixed Wireless and Satellite Strategic Review.
  - e. N/A.
  - f. N/A.
  - g. NBN Co.
  - h. N/A.
3.
  - a. The NBN Strategic Review and NBN Governance Review (as part of the Strategic Review).
  - b. The current cost to date expended on the reviews for the period of 1 December 2013 to 28 February 2014 was \$8,581,250.
4. No.
5. The NBN Strategic Review and the Fixed Wireless and Satellite review
- 6-7 Two. The Government released the NBN Strategic Review on 12 December 2013 and the Fixed Wireless and Satellite Review on the 7 May 2014. Following the NBN Strategic Review, the Government provided NBN Co with a Statement of Expectations on 9 April 2014.
8. None, apart from those mentioned above.