

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 265

Program No. NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Page 125 (29/5/2014)

Topic: Aerial development

Senator Urquhart asked:

The question that I am asking is: was the Minister provided with a briefing between 18 February and 22 February, advising the Minister that NBN Co now proposed to embrace the aerial development?

Mr Adcock: Not to my knowledge.

Senator URQUHART: Could you take that on notice and confirm that or deny it?

Mr Adcock: I will take it on notice.

Senator URQUHART: I am just trying to get some clarity here. Was the Minister announcing a decision made independently by NBN Co management or was the minister making a political decision that he was imposing on NBN Co? You do not know because you have not provided any information.

Mr Adcock: I will take it on notice.

Answer:

NBN Co did not provide the Minister with a briefing between 18 February and 22 February, advising the Minister that NBN Co now proposed to embrace aerial development.

A potential trial concept was discussed on 24 February and NBN Co was to proceed to investigate the feasibility of an aerial trial. Extensive discussions have since taken place between the Tasmanian Government, Aurora and NBN Co as to the feasibility of an aerial trial and the extent to which aerial deployment will continue to be a component of the NBN rollout in Tasmania. These discussions are ongoing.