

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 538

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: Independent cost-benefit analysis and review of regulation

Senator Urquhart asked:

In reference to the *Independent cost-benefit analysis and review of regulation*:

- a. The Secretary in conclusion on questions in relation to QoN 66 said “I am happy to go back and review our written response.” In doing so, could the Department provide details of every Cost Benefit Analysis each panel member has had experience in preparing?

Answer:

- a. In considering the composition of the panel, it was important that their combined skills and experience covered all of the terms of reference. Part of this process was ensuring that the panel overall had experience in cost-benefit analysis. This did not mean that each panel member had to have direct experience in cost-benefit analysis.

The panel members bring considerable experience in telecommunications, regulation and competition policy, economics (including cost-benefit analysis), public policy and digital business. Brief resumes of each panel member were listed in the Minister’s media release of 12 December 2013.

Dr Vertigan, Professor Ergas and Mr Shaw have all produced, commissioned or been involved in a number of cost-benefit analyses, including those involving various infrastructure projects, over many decades.