

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 3

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 4-5, 20/10/2015

Topic: Electorate Briefs – Commercial-in-Confidence

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: The information in these briefs is already public in the form of a three-year plan, as you have outlined. That is correct, isn't it?

Senator Fifield: Correct. Last Friday.

Senator URQUHART: There is nothing commercial in confidence, is there, if they are out there in the form of a three-year plan?

Senator Fifield: I would doubt that there is anything of a commercial-in-confidence nature in those briefs. As I say, we will take it on notice and take a look.

Senator URQUHART: If there is nothing commercial in confidence, you would have looked at them, Minister, being the minister responsible. I think that they were rolled out last Friday, from memory. You have obviously had a chance to look at them. You would be fully aware of whether or not there is commercial-in-confidence information.

Senator Fifield: Material comes to me aggregated in many different forms. I can tell you that on Friday, and in the days and weeks before, I was looking at things at a national level and at a state level. Now that you have asked me to look at things particularly on an electorate level, I will do that.

Senator URQUHART: Are you not sure if there is anything commercial in confidence in them?

Senator Fifield: As I say, I would doubt that there was. I have agreed to take a look at it and I will do so.

Senator URQUHART: Okay. You will have a look at it and you will come back during the course of today.

Senator Fifield: Sure.

Answer:

The briefing material referred to was prepared by the Department for the Minister for Communications and the Arts and his staff in October 2015. The Minister's office has indicated that it would be happy to brief Members of Parliament on the NBN.