

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 74

nbn

Hansard Ref: Page 71, 20/10/15

Topic: New Copper Spend

Senator Conroy, Stephen asked:

Senator CONROY: I think they will be surprised by your answer that is all. I am not but I think they will be. What volumes of new copper have you ordered from Prysmian?

Mr Morrow: I do not know. If we have it would be small at this point in time.

Senator CONROY: How much have you spent so far on new copper for the FTTN build?

Mr Morrow: I do not have that with me.

Senator CONROY: Can you take it on notice?

Mr Morrow: I can certainly take it on notice.

Senator CONROY: It could not be a state secret, could it?

Mr Morrow: I will take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: Would it be commercial-in-confidence?

Mr Morrow: Let me take that on notice.

Senator CONROY: What? You need to take on notice whether or not how much you spent on new copper is commercial-in-confidence?

Mr Morrow: I will take your question on notice as to how much we have spent on the copper to date.

Senator CONROY: Do you believe it will be commercial-in-confidence? With other ones you have upfront said, 'No, sorry, can't. Commercial-in-confidence.' I wait three months and get an answer that says, 'Sorry, it's commercial-in-confidence.' I am seeking to clarify whether that will be the answer upfront or not.

Mr Morrow: As I said, I will take your question on notice.

Answer:

As at 20 October 2015 **nbn** had ordered 1.8 million metres of copper cable. Due to ongoing negotiations with suppliers, the cost of copper is commercial in confidence.