

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES – 22 FEBRUARY 2011
 BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY PORTFOLIO**

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| 1 | Australia Post | Abetz | Australia Post Uniforms | Senator ABETZ —That has obviated the need for my next question, so thank you for that. Whereabouts are Australia Post uniforms manufactured? You can take that on notice if nobody knows off the top of their head. Mr Fahour —We will take it on notice. | EC 63 (22/02/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 2 | Australia Post | Abetz | Australia Post Uniforms | How does Australia Post select the uniforms manufacturer? Is there a tender process? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 3 | Australia Post | Abetz | Assistance to Licensees in flood affected areas of Qld | Senator ABETZ —Can I ask what assistance Australia Post gave to flood affected licensed post offices and mail contractors? Mr Fahour —Are you referring to any specific floods, like Queensland or Victoria, or just generally? Senator ABETZ —I think we have had a number of floods in every state of Australia. I am just wondering what Australia Post has done to assist those post offices and contractors. Ms Corbett —A number of our licensees in Queensland were particularly affected. We have deferred some of the stock payments for the month of January because a lot of them were unable to trade on a temporary basis. Senator ABETZ —Is that it? Could you take on notice what other assistance you may have offered to individual licensees and post offices, without naming them? Ms Corbett —Certainly. I can give you a number of examples relating to the floods which happened in North Queensland straight after Christmas. We have given extensive support and have had experienced people managing to our licensees, our staff and the community at large. We have worked closely with the Queensland government-the Department of Communities in particular-to ensure we are able to distribute emergency relief funds to people in need. We have also worked very closely with licensees to set up some temporary arrangements with regard to both mail delivery and temporary premises. As I said, we have also then looked at how we can alleviate some of the stock payments in the immediate term. | EC 63 (22/02/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 4 | Australia Post | Abetz | Queensland Floods | What damage did Australia Post's corporate post offices suffer in the recent flooding in Queensland? What damage was there to Licensed Post Offices and community Postal Agencies during the Queensland floods? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 5 | Australia Post | Abetz | Security | What security checks does Australia Post require for staff at Franchised Post Offices? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | What security checks does Australia Post require for staff at Licensed Post Offices? | Please note EC 63 | | |
| 6 | Australia Post | Abetz | Insurance | Does Australia Post self-insure its property, including all vehicles, buildings, fixtures and fittings? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 7 | Australia Post | Abetz | Vehicles | How many vehicles does Australia Post own as at 1 February 2011? Has the use of vehicles decreased as more delivery work is contracted? How does Australia Post dispose of vehicles such as mail vans or postie bikes when the vehicles have reached the end of their working life? Are vehicles provided for the use of the Managing Director, the Board and senior Australia Post executives? If so, what sort of vehicles are provided? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 8 | Australia Post | Abetz | 111 Burke Street | At the last Senate Estimates, Australia Post indicated that the total cost of the fit-out to its new headquarters at 111 Bourke Street, Melbourne, was in the region of \$70M. What was the exact figure? What is the annual leasing cost of 111 Bourke Street? How do the costs of fit-out and lease fit within Australia Post's MD's statement at the October Senate Estimates hearings that he was aiming for a "lean and mean" organisation? How many years remain on the lease for 111 Bourke Street? What other premises does Australia Post have in Melbourne? Which are leased and which are owned? Is it Australia Post's intention to relocate any of those offices to its headquarters? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 9 | Australia Post | Abetz | Australia Today Magazine | Is <i>Australia Today</i> magazine being discontinued? If so, why? What has Australia Post spent on this magazine since its inception? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 10 | Australia Post | Abetz | Messenger Post | How does Australia Post recruit and select Contractors to work for Messenger Post? What information is given to prospective Messenger Post contractors about expected income and costs? How long is the typical Messenger Post contract? How is work allocated to Messenger Post contractors? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 11 | Australia Post | Abetz | Stamp supplies to Licensed Post Offices | Did Australia Post assist those Licensees who lost sales due to Australia Post's supply problems in the lead-up to Christmas 2010? Where are Australia Post's stamp distribution hubs located? How long does it take for Licensees located far away from those distribution hubs to receive the stamps that they order? | Written (1/03/11) Please note EC 64-65 | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 12 | Australia Post | Abetz | Portable Data Terminals (hand-held | How many PDTs have been allocated to Corporate post offices? Are there any Corporate post offices that do not have at least one PDT? How many LPOs have a PDT? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | scanners) | How many PDTs have been allocated to the LPO network? What is the criteria for allocating PDTs to LPOs? | | | |
| 13 | Australia Post | Abetz | Domestic letter service | What is Australia Post doing to promote the usage of the basic domestic letter service? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 14 | Australia Post | Abetz | Renewal of IT systems and equipment | At the October 2010 Estimates hearing (page EC59), the chairman asked for details of expenditure on the renewal of Australia Post's IT systems and equipment. Has there been a response to this? How has Australia Post benefited and how will Australia Post benefit in the future from its current renewal of its IT systems and equipment? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 15 | Australia Post | Abetz | Staff Levels | How many redundancies have been taken by Australia Post staff in the 2010 calendar year? How has this impacted on total employee numbers? How much did Australia Post budget for employee redundancies and how much of this budget has been used so far? Will this redundancy programme impact on the dividend paid to the Government this year? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 16 | Australia Post | Abetz | Consultants | Has Australia Post's use of consultants increased or decreased over the past 12 months compared to previous years? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 17 | Australia Post | Abetz | Other Carriers | With reference to the answer to question on notice 12 (from October 2010 estimates), please provide a complete list of other carriers for whom Australia Post performs last mile delivery. | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 18 | Australia Post | Abetz | Restructure | With reference to the answer to question on notice 14 (from October 2010 estimates), have all management positions at State and National levels now been filled? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 19 | Australia Post | Abetz | Australia Post Headquarters | With reference to the answer to question on notice 17 (from October 2010 estimates), Australia Post provided total costs for operating the Vic/Tas office over the past 5 financial years. Please provide costs for WA, SA/NT, QLD and NSW. Please also indicate what proportion of those costs are salaries. | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 20 | Australia Post | Birmingham | Frequency of Delivery Services | Senator BIRMINGHAM —Australia Post has had some correspondence with my colleague Dan Tehan, the member for Wannon, about the frequency of mail delivery in the Streatham and Mininera regions. Streatham in particular is a region where delivery services have been reduced from five days a week to three days a week. I understand the arguments that have been mounted in the correspondence to Mr Tehan, and obviously there is no expectation or likelihood that Australia Post will reconsider delivery frequency in that area. With regard to Mininera, though, the correspondence signed by Mr Thorne, the board and shareholder liaison officer, highlights that although Mininera does not meet the five-day delivery frequency | EC 71 (22/02/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | policy you will maintain a five-day-a-week route because of certain factors related to a local service and so on. Can I have an assurance that there is no plan to review that anytime soon, given the existing arrangements there? Mr Fahour —I will take your question on notice to give us time to investigate that particular agreement, whenever that was made. We will come back to you with the facts on that. | | | |
| 21 | Australia Post | Birmingham | Change to Frequency of Delivery Services | Senator BIRMINGHAM —How many regions over the last 12 months have had their services cut from a five-day-a-week delivery to a three-day-a-week delivery? Mr Fahour —I am happy to take that on notice. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Equally, to be fair, are there any regions that have had their services increased from a three-day-a-week delivery to a five-day-a-week delivery? | EC 71 (22/02/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 22 | Australia Post | Humphries | Closure of Belconnen Business Centre | In relation to the reported closure of the Belconnen Business Centre When is the centre scheduled to close? What consultation was done before the decision was made to close the centre? What was Australia Post's rationale for closing the centre? Please provide a copy of any reports or studies undertaken, and resulting recommendations, into the Belconnen Business Centre. Will the staff be retrenched? If not where will they be moved to? Where will postage items that are currently sent to the Belconnen Business Centre be redirected to? What will happen to the building which houses the Belconnen Business Centre Will it be sold? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 23 | Australia Post | MacDonald | Rockhampton Mail Centre's Operations during the floods | Senator IAN MACDONALD —I just wanted to briefly question what happened to the Rockhampton mail centre's operations during the floods in Rockhampton, when, clearly, trucks were not able to get through. I have heard that the mail centre was temporarily moved to Gladstone. I am interested to question that in relation to my other interest in the Rockhampton mail centre, which I will not mention today except, in passing, to say that I appreciate that arrangements have been made to meet with residents and me at some time in the not-too-distant future. Mr Ousley —The work-around arrangements for Rockhampton did not involve a relocation to Gladstone. Both events – the floods and then later the cyclone – caused closures for staff to deal with their own personal issues on a number of occasions. There was obviously work that did not flow as usual because of road closures et cetera. But there was local work to be done in those precincts during that time. There were no relocations - Senator IAN MACDONALD —It was suggested to me that mail coming from the | EC 72 (22/02/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | <p>south that could not get through to Rockhampton because of the floods was actually diverted to Gladstone and then distributed to western Queensland and sometimes further north via circuitous routes, but done out of Gladstone. That is not the case?</p> <p>Mr Ousley—That is not the case, to my knowledge. There was some mail that got held up at Miles heading north and then across, but that eventually got in through Mackay, I think. But we can clarify this through a question on notice if that would suit.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Could you just check out what happened to the mail coming north when it reached the outskirts of Rockhampton? As I said, my information is that it was diverted to Gladstone and then sorted and distributed from Gladstone as a temporary measure. I am interested in whether that did happen and, if so, what the arrangements were.</p> <p>Mr Ousley—Yes.</p> <p>Mr Fahour—We are happy to take that on notice.</p> | | | |
| 24 | Australia Post | Ryan | Australian Legends Series stamps | <p>Senator RYAN – I would like to turn our attention to stamps, if I could – in particular, the Australian legends series that was recently announced.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Did you miss out?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—The standard would have been lowered if I was on one, Senator Conroy. I would like to explore who chose the criteria for this particular series of stamps.</p> <p>Mr Fahour—Stephen Walter has been looking after this area for the last number of years. He can give you the background on how we went through our process.</p> <p>Mr Walter—I have been involved since the inception of the Legends Award in 1997. I can give a bit of background in answering your question. Prior to 1997 the only living people honoured on Australian stamps were the monarch and sometimes members of the royal family. Our stamp program is approved by the board. The living legends series has been an annual part of the program since 1997. What has been attempted with the legends award is to make it a very long-running event and each year there will be people, as individuals or in fields of endeavour, who will be recognised with the Australian Legends Award. The recommendation for the content of the legends award comes from our philatelic group, which consults widely, and particularly the Stamp Advisory Committee, comprising external experts including philatelic and graphic designers. They are looking at a balanced approach.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—It will not surprise you that I am a bit concerned about a lack of balance here. Do you have the names of the members of the Stamp Advisory Committee handy?</p> | EC 72-75 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>Mr Walter—No, but I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—You said that the members of the Stamp Advisory Committee were experts in philately and graphic designers. Is that who is on the Stamp Advisory Committee?</p> <p>Mr Walter—It goes wider than that. I can take that on notice and give you the make-up of the Stamp Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—So that committee makes a recommendation about the criteria for a legends series in a given year?</p> <p>Mr Walter—No, there are some criteria that have been established from the start.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—If we go to this year, who established the criteria around which these four women were made Australian legends on stamps?</p> <p>CHAIR—What four women?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Excuse me if I do not use their honorifics. They are Eva Cox, Elizabeth Evatt, Germaine Greer and Anne Summers.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—The stamp police have arrived. The stamp police are with us.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I am a bit concerned about the stamp police already having been in action. Who established the criteria? Someone obviously chose them. Recognising leaders amongst Australian women is something I entirely support. I am not challenging that. But I assume that someone made that choice.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Of the four?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—No, the criteria.</p> <p>Mr Walter—The criteria have been established since 1997. I can also arrange to give you those on notice as well. But, basically, the selection criteria include things like helping to shape the national identity-</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Sorry; maybe I am not being clear. I understand the broad criteria. Who established the theme for this series, if that is a better way to put it?</p> <p>Mr Walter—About the middle of last year – I am sorry if that was the specifics you were getting to – it was decided that, in line with the celebration of the centenary of International Women’s Day next month, those women who had contributed to gender equality would be recognised. I think it is important to understand, too, that the Legends Award is not just about four individuals in this case; it is about all women who have supported the cause of gender equality. If you look at the book that was published in conjunction with the award, which is called <i>Trailblazers: The Road to Equality</i>, you will see there that many women are recognised. This group of women was chosen -</p> <p>Senator RYAN—The choice of the four who go on the stamp is obviously an</p> | | | |

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| | | | | <p>important one. I think you will accept that. In acknowledging the centenary of International Women's Day, a valid thing to honour and recognise, someone decided to pick only the 1970s. Who was it? Your criteria say the recipients of the Australia Post legends award each rose to prominence during the 1970s. Who decided to say we are going to have the four from the 1970s on it?</p> <p>Mr Walter—The criteria actually say that they have to have achieved in their field or contributed in their field over an extended or sustained period of many years. If you look back through the years and the people who have been awarded you will find that from people like Sir Donald Bradman, one of the first ones, Slim Dusty and so on—</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Yes, I have the list.</p> <p>Mr Walter—all of them have contributed in their field for many years. The process that occurred is that our philatelic researchers, once the theme of gender equality was established, researched the various possible people to fit that theme. And of course they consulted widely. Again, I could give you on notice who was consulted. It goes outside the Stamp Advisory Committee—</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I appreciate that.</p> <p>Mr Walter—It went to a number of women's groups. I cannot name them but I can take it on notice. It goes to a number of prominent Australians as well.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—But who decided to pick the 1970s? In a century of a campaign for women's equality there have been an enormous number of Australians involved. Who decided to pick the 1970s? You have picked four in one decade here out of 10 decades and many more.</p> <p>Mr Walter—Sorry, I missed an important point, I think. I was going to run through the criteria as I understood them without providing them on notice, but this is the living legends as well. So the fact is that you have to be alive to receive this award and, as I said, the only living people who appeared—</p> <p>Senator Conroy—It is an important point.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I am assuming there are more than four people alive from the 1970s involved in this particular sphere, Senator Conroy.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Just come out and say who you hated. Stop teasing us; tell us who you hated on the stamp. I cannot stand the suspense anymore. Who is it you hate?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Just ignore the interjections of the minister. We find it much easier in the chamber as well.</p> <p>Mr Walter—Senator, I guess it is fair to say that a recommendation comes through</p> | | | |

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| | | | | <p>from that group— Senator RYAN—To the board? Mr Walter—From the advisory committee to the managing director. The managing director puts it to the board. The board approves the stamp issue. The board is an independent board with an independent chairman, Mr David Mortimer. I am sure you know David. And the board will look at a whole series of stamp issues. The living legends, while it is an important exercise and over the last 14 years has been terrific and well received, in the context of our business represents less than one per cent—it is 0.05 per cent—of our business. Therefore it would not necessarily take up the amount of time at a board meeting that maybe you would like it to. Senator RYAN—No, the point is I am not critical of any particular choice; I am, however, concerned at what is, quite frankly, a lack of diversity amongst the choices. Senator Conroy—Could you explain what you mean? Senator RYAN—I am quite happy to explain that. CHAIR—Why couldn't you even get a female senator to ask this? That is what is exercising my mind. Senator RYAN—Chair, we can think as individuals. My concern is that in this particular choice there are a number of other notable women. The truth is that the four people you have named as legends—and I am not critical—can be balanced off with four people who do not necessarily share that political persuasion. You have a person who used to work for a former Labor prime minister. You have a person who at least used to recommend Labor votes but now recommends Green votes, so I understand why you are a bit sensitive about that. And you have consciously chosen political activists. Yet in the 1970s you had the first female cabinet minister with portfolio, Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, a senator. You had the first convenor of the National Women's Advisory Council, Dame Beryl Beaurepaire, who later became the first female chairman of the Australian War Memorial. The point I am making is that there is not the diversity in this range of stamps that there could otherwise be that would fully represent the cause you are trying to raise public consciousness about. Mr Fahour—Senator, thank you for your feedback. I have not been around, obviously, long enough to know any of these things, but could I just add this point. It is an important thing and we have to make sure, but definitely the one thing I will not allow my team to do is to figure out what the underlying politics of the individuals are and whether they are left, right, up or down. I do not really care, nor do I want to influence their</p> | | | |

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| | | | | <p>decision in the recommendations they put forward. There is an independent group who are experts in their own right who have put forward-</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Experts in history? Experts in this?</p> <p>Mr Fahour—Experts in their own right who—</p> <p>Senator RYAN—On what?</p> <p>Mr Fahour—I am the CEO. We are running a business, and as the CEO of this business working for the government of Australia—we have been asked to dispense our duty. We have dispensed our duty. We have put in place expert people who have gone and consulted widely. We have taken on notice, Senator, the points that you make, and we will come back to you with who they consulted and how they did—</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I would like to know whether they were considered by the group. I would like to know who else was considered and whether anyone else was recommended either to you or to the board, or whether the board simply ticked off on the four who were proposed.</p> <p>Mr Fahour—No problems.</p> | | | |
| 25 | Australia Post | Ryan | Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth | <p>Senator RYAN—That can represent the campaign. But I am here as an individual. Can I ask one last question on a different issue: does Australia Post plan to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in any way? Are you planning to commemorate it with a stamp of any variety?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Oh, my god.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I am a republican, Senator Conroy, but I am asking the question.</p> <p>Senator HEFFERNAN—I am a stamp collector.</p> <p>Senator RYAN—Amongst many other things, Bill.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Did you miss out on an invitation? Is that what this is about?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I would not take it up.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Do you think you can score a late invitation to the wedding?</p> <p>Senator RYAN—I have been a republican longer than you, Senator Conroy. It is just a question. Do you have plans under way to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee?</p> <p>Ms Corbett—I will need to refer to our stamp issue program for the upcoming month. We will take that on notice for you.</p> | EC 75-76 (22/02/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 26 | Australia Post | Wortley | Mercedes Benz Mail Vans | <p>Senator WORTLEY—On the issue of the Mercedes Benz vans, there was a questionnaire that was received by drivers that were going to driving the vans. I understand that a lot of the drivers were satisfied, but in October, I think, when we spoke, there were some six</p> | EC 77-78 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>per cent who still had issues. I am wondering whether those issues have been addressed or how that has been dealt with.</p> <p>Ms Walsh—As with the Work Ready Program, the Mercedes van arrangements and concerns that the union and our employees have had is a continuing discussion that we are having with all of those groups. I am happy to take on notice if there has been any change from that six per cent. But what I can advise you is that the discussions around this with individuals who are concerned and, indeed, the unions, has been continuing during that time. Given the small number of people with those concerns, I think the best thing to do is continue working with them one-on-one to consider their concerns and the particular details of their route that they are undertaking as part of their round to see what improvements can be made to allay those concerns.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY—Has there been feedback from the other drivers – not the six per cent who had issues – as to how it is working with the other drivers?</p> <p>Ms Walsh—Since we undertook that original survey and the further discussions that have been had, I have not been advised that there has been any further increase or addition to that. But I am happy to take that on notice and provide that to you.</p> <p>Senator WORTLEY—I would appreciate that. Thank you.</p> | | | |
| 27 | Australia Post | McEwen | Indigenous Employment | <p>Senator McEWEN—You mentioned that you have 600 Indigenous employees and are aiming higher, and that is great. I am particularly curious about what programs you have in regional and rural areas of Australia to provide employment for Indigenous people.</p> <p>Ms Walsh—As Mr Fahour has indicated, those programs are now encapsulated in our reconciliation action plan. But I think the focus we really want there is, as Mr Fahour said, around the employment opportunities we can offer, particularly around traineeships and encouraging people to take part in school-to-work programs. So we see the whole spectrum of assistance through the Indigenous community. It does not just start with employment, although that is the bedrock of what we are doing and what we can offer. It starts with keeping people in school, giving them a great education, supporting them with part-time work while they transfer from school to work, and then giving them the opportunity of undertaking traineeships in skills that will take them not only to jobs and a career at Australia Post but indeed, if they so choose, elsewhere. We have seen a lot of that at Australia Post—we skill people up to go into other jobs and give them careers in other places, and we see that as success as well. And beyond that we are giving them the basics and the fundamentals. We have been working with TAFE in the Hunter Valley region to give people skills to set up their own small business. They might be mail contractors or parcel contractors, given that those are often the jobs that are</p> | EC 79 (22/02/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | available in rural and regional areas. We want to continue that kind of work and we see that it can make a real difference in rural and regional areas as well. Senator McEWEN —Of the 600 Indigenous employees you have now, how many would be on traineeships of some kind? Ms Walsh —I can take that on notice but I know that we have a commitment to—at the moment it is around 30 but we are certainly looking to extend well above that into the future and over the period of the RAP commitments. | | | |
| 28 | ABC | Abetz | QA audiences | Senator ABETZ —Can I move on to the helpful answer I was given to question No. 151, which is, once again, the break-up of Q&A audiences. Can I ask you to give me an update from episode 41 onwards to date. Can you take that on notice. Mr Scott —I have material here, Senator. Senator ABETZ —Take it on notice, because time is very short. But could you confirm that, in relation to episodes 15 through to episode 40, not one of the audiences, even by accident, was a coalition majority audience? | EC 80 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 29 | ABC | Abetz | Q&A | Are there any plans for Q&A to come to Tasmania? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 30 | ABC | Abetz | Program <i>Laid</i> | Senator ABETZ —. Can I move on to the program <i>Laid</i> . I understand that you are a fan of <i>Laid</i> . Mr Scott —I have seen an episode. Senator ABETZ —But I understand that you are a fan of it. Mr Scott —I thought it was quite funny. Have you seen an episode, Senator? I am happy to send you a tape if you have not seen it and you want to comment on it. Senator ABETZ – Please, Chair – time is very short. Senator Conroy —I thought Mr Scott was being very helpful. Senator ABETZ —Mr Scott, I understand you are a fan of <i>Laid</i> . You in fact tweeted on the night of the first episode, did you not? Senator Conroy —Are you stalking Mr Scott? Senator ABETZ —Given the distasteful Facebook page of <i>Laid</i> , which includes references to necrophilia and smothering your ex with a pillow – and they are available on Facebook and YouTube – can you explain the reason for the decision not to place an age access restriction on the content? Mr Scott —On the Facebook page? Senator ABETZ —Yes. Mr Scott —I have not seen the Facebook page. My reference was to the first episode of the program that went to air, which I thought was, appropriately, adult content. Senator ABETZ —That is right. I am asking about the Facebook page. | EC 81 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>Mr Scott—I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Because, as I understand it—though I have never claimed to be a tech-head—with three clicks you could ensure with a Facebook page that, if they are registered correctly, anybody under a certain age would be denied access.</p> <p>Mr Scott—Okay. Let me take that on notice.</p> | | | |
| 31 | ABC | Abetz | Program <i>Laid</i> | <p>What was the total cost of bringing <i>Laid</i> to the ABC (including production, staff costs, marketing etc)?</p> <p>Is this series coming out on DVD? If so, what is the cost of production of the upcoming DVD and will this be covered by the ABC?</p> <p>What is the estimated size of the ABC1 audience for the timeslot in which <i>Laid</i> was broadcast?</p> <p>To date, how many times have the episodes been watched on iView or downloaded in their entirety?</p> <p>Who was responsible for posting the official updates on the ABC TV Laid Facebook page?</p> <p>Can you explain the decision not to place age restrictions on the content containing adult themes, coarse language and sexual references on platforms such as Facebook, YouTube and iView?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 32 | ABC | Abetz | References to Egyptian/Israeli blockades | <p>Senator ABETZ—Despite repeated ABC denials about anti-Israel bias, I draw your attention to yet another of many examples—but we will try to limit it because of time restraints—the story on 24 January 2011 about the flotilla raid which was on the <i>AM</i> program. There are many aspects to the story but I will just deal with two of them. The ABC broadcast mentions both the misery of the Gaza Strip and the Israeli blockade, and by implication attributes the former to the latter. No mention whatsoever is made of the Egyptian blockage. I then did a search of the ABC websites et cetera and could locate only one solitary instance where the ABC refers to an Egyptian blockade of Gaza; by comparison, there are literally hundreds in relation to Israel's Gaza blockade. I am sure that that is not indicative of bias and you will have all the rationale that you have previously provided, but I point that out to you as an example—</p> <p>Mr Scott—There have been numbers of other reports though, Senator, where references have been made to an Egyptian blockade.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Could you please provide them on notice—an example of all the references to the Egyptian blockade and all the references to the Israeli blockade. The same story on 24 January referred to the flotilla as aid ships and we were told that this was bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza. The organisers of the flotilla have admitted that the purpose of the flotilla was in fact to break the blockade, and Israel had agreed to</p> | EC 81-82 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>deliver any humanitarian aid that was on board the ships to the people. They were enforcing the blockade and were not seeking to deny the humanitarian aid getting through. So why do we describe the flotilla as aid ships bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza when the actual organisers said that this was about trying to break the blockade?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I do not have a copy of the transcript of that program, nor do I recall hearing it. I simply say that I accept that you may have criticisms of it. There has been criticism of our coverage of that from both sides. We have had some very strong criticism of a television documentary put to air in, I think, the <i>Four Corners</i> slot which I think is currently being investigated by the Independent Complaints Review Panel or by ACMA— I am not quite sure which—that says we were very pro-Israel in our coverage of that. There has been criticism on both sides and I accept your concerns on that.</p> | | | |
| 33 | ABC | Chair | ABC's coverage of Operation Cast Lead | <p>CHAIR—On Senator Abetz's previous question, Mr Scott, can you provide some details of the ABC's coverage of Operation Cast Lead, in which hundreds of civilians were killed and there was massive damage of civilian residences and various government establishments—and where it was found that the Israeli forces had overreacted and that there had been war crimes as part of that process. When you are answering Senator Abetz, can you advise the committee as well what the follow-up coverage of Operation Cast Lead has been.</p> <p>Mr Scott—I will take that on notice.</p> | EC 82 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 34 | ABC | Abetz | Election complaints 2010 (refer QoN 156-October Hearing) | <p>Senator ABETZ—On question 156, you kindly provided us with a breakdown of figures on complaints from the last election. There were 982. Of those, 55 per cent were in relation to anti-coalition bias and 33 per cent in relation to anti-Labor bias, and we were told there were five complaints—which is one for each Greens senator—about anti-Greens bias. In relation to those five complaints—take this on notice—did any of them assert that the interviewer or presenter displayed a bias against the Greens as opposed to being about lack of time that may have been afforded to the Greens?</p> <p>Mr Scott—I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—Yes, of course. Technically and statistically I think five out of about 1,000 is insignificant but, nevertheless, as it represents one for each Greens senator, I thought I should ask about it.</p> | EC 82 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 35 | ABC | Abetz | ABC's role as emergency broadcaster | <p>Senator ABETZ I will finish by asking about the role of the ABC as the emergency broadcaster. In my speech to the Senate about the flood I in fact paid tribute to the role of the ABC.</p> | EC 82 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | However, I have received a complaint that on 14 January 2011 a farmer in Elmore rang the ABC regarding the impending threat of floodwaters in Rochester. What action was taken as a result of this call, and were hourly flood updates being broadcast on ABC radio during the Twenty20 international coverage in January? Mr Scott —I will take that on notice. | | | |
| 36 | ABC | Abetz | Election Review | Can you please advise the outcome of the investigation of election-related complaints mentioned on page 5 of the 2010 Election Coverage Review Committee's report? How were each of these complaints categorised and what are the quantities of complaints received within each category? Can you please provide the names and positions of the members of the ECRC? Why was this not disclosed in the report? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 37 | ABC | Abetz | Utilising resources from other networks | Does the ABC ever utilise resources such as cameras and crew from other television networks? If so, which networks and at what cost to the Australian taxpayer? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 38 | ABC | Abetz | ABC24 | Do ABC and ABC24 send separate reporters to cover the same event in regions within and outside of Australia? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 39 | ABC | Abetz | Al Jazeera | Does the ABC have any agreements with the Al Jazeera network for sharing news footage, photos, facilities or information? Does the ABC utilise the Al Jazeera Creative Commons Repository? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 40 | ABC | Abetz | ABC 774 Commentary | Can you confirm that a comment was made during a "continuity" or during the broadcast of ABC 774 Melbourne on the morning of 26/10/2010 implying that it was unfortunate that the shoe thrown at The Hon John Howard AC missed its mark? Who said this and in what context? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 41 | ABC | Abetz | ABC Twitter Accounts | Is the Twitter user, @QandARockstars, affiliated with the ABC in any way? If so, why isn't it identified as such? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 42 | ABC | Abetz | ABC Innovation Department | Can you provide a breakdown of the costs of each project undertaken or managed by the Innovation Department this financial year? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 43 | ABC | Abetz | Abolition of the Independent Complaints Review Panel | When does the ABC intend on discontinuing the Independent Complaints Review Panel? Will this be replaced with an independent body for complainants to turn to if they are not satisfied with the ABC's internal complaints handling procedures? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 44 | ABC | Abetz | Water Usage | The ABC's latest Annual Report states that "Total water usage and comparative data is not available." Can the ABC provide figures for its water usage for the 2009/10 period, and can you explain why these figures were not available for the Annual Report? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 45 | ABC | Abetz | Promotion of New Matilda | The Online website New Matilda, which has a history of complaints against it for anti-semitic content, received free publicity and a backlink on The Drum on 10 December 2010. Were there any complaints about this? Has there been any action taken in relation to the article, and specifically, the editorial policy 16.2.4 ABC presenters must avoid any endorsement of any commercial organisation, product or service by themselves, their guests or contributors in ABC broadcasts or ABC Online. | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 46 | ABC | Abetz | Sentiment Analysis | The report of the Election Coverage Review Committee makes little effort to analyse the balance of articles published on its online opinion sites. However, the ABC did perform Sentiment Analysis on social media websites. Is there any prospect of using Sentiment Analysis on the ABC's online opinion websites, The Drum and Unleashed? What other measures are used to ensure balance on the online opinion websites? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 47 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Q&A Twitter account | Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —I would like to ask about Q&A and its Twitter account. I do not Twitter, myself, Mr Scott, but— Mr Scott —It is a big universe; you are welcome, Senator. You need a tutorial. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —I know, I know. I still believe that tweeting is for the birds. There is a Q&A account and I would like to take you to one example, on 10 February, where it says 'odds on that the impact of cutting back funding will be very bad.' Of course this was in relation to the coalition's plan to defer water buybacks so that the new flood tax would not have to be raised. Whose views does this Twitter account represent? Mr Scott —These are not the tweets that go to air on the program down the bottom of the page are they? Is that what you are referring to? Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Someone just printed this for me. Mr Jones's portrait is on the side— Mr Scott —Oh, that account. I suspect it is not Mr Jones himself. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Whose views does this Twitter account represent? Mr Scott —I will have to take that on notice. I am not aware of the origins of that account, so I will find out. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Who physically issues these tweets? Mr Scott —I will have to find that out for you. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —When you do find that out, could you tell me whether these are the | EC 83 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | views of Mr Jones, given that his portrait appears on the site, and whether it is the view of the Q&A program that deferring water buybacks is a bad idea or whether it is the view of the ABC that deferring water buybacks is a bad idea? Mr Scott —Let me investigate the origins of that. | | | |
| 48 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | ABC Policies governing Twitter accounts | Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —Do programs such as <i>7.30 Report</i> and <i>Four Corners</i> have Twitter accounts? Mr Scott —In the main, a number of programs have Twitter accounts and, in the main, they are used to promote forthcoming episodes – to, in a sense, market the program and explain what is going on. Often you will find that members of the audience send questions through to the program using the Twitter account. So it is a way of responding to questions or issues that are raised. I do not have the complete list in front of me of official ABC Twitter accounts, but many programs do. Local radio is using it very extensively and numbers of our news programs do as well. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —My concern is: do they comment directly on policies of political parties? Could you review those accounts. Mr Scott —Sure, Senator. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —, I notice that Ms Fran Kelly has one that pertains to Radio National- Mr Scott —To the breakfast program. Senator FIERRAVANTI-WELLS —and then one that pertains to herself. Could you also take on notice what ABC policies govern such tweeting? Mr Scott —Absolutely. We have clear social media policies and I am pleased to make them available for you, Senator. | EC 83 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 49 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | A survey by ABC News Watch of the number of stories reported by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in June 2009 showed 7.8 stories per staff member, compared with 10.3 stories per staff member for the same month in 2008. Does the ABC keep such figures? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 50 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | If the ABC is producing less stories with more staff, can Mr Scott explain how the Australian taxpayer is getting value for money? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 51 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | Is this the best way to measure efficiency? If not, how is it measured? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 52 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | What policies does the ABC have in relation to climate change reporting? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 53 | ABC | Fierravanti- | Outcome 1 | How many complaints has the ABC received about its climate change reporting? | Written | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | Wells | | | (10/03/11) | | |
| 54 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | What processes are in place to moderate comments made at ABC online websites about climate change? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 55 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | What recourse is there for individuals who feel they have been defamed on opinion and blog pages? | Written (10/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 56 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | Is the ABC leaving itself open to defamation cases because of poor management of blog comments? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 57 | ABC | Fierravanti-Wells | Outcome 1 | What, if any, legal action is the ABC defending at present arising out of blog comments? | Written (10/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 58 | ABC | Xenophon | <i>Soapbox</i> program complaints | <p>Senator XENOPHON—Mr Scott, recently the ABC cancelled the <i>Soapbox</i> program on 891 local radio in Adelaide and replaced it with <i>Conversations with Richard Fidler</i>. Can the ABC describe how this program, which recently interviewed of Northumbrian folk singers, is more relevant in terms of local content than a program which included feedback from the entire state?</p> <p>Senator FISHER—Hear, hear!</p> <p>Mr Scott—I appreciate that this is of concern to some of the good senators from South Australia.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—It is a big concern.</p> <p>Mr Scott—Yes, I understand that. If you look at our local radio format right through from the smaller local radio stations to the main ones in the metropolitan areas you will see that we have local coverage and we have national coverage. In the heart of the breakfast program we cross to <i>AM</i>, and <i>AM</i> goes around the country. And on the weekend, of course, there is extensive national coverage on local radio through <i>Grandstand</i> and other programs as well. The Richard Fidler conversations program is one of those national programs. It comes out of Queensland and goes, I understand, at the moment through New South Wales, Tasmania and now South Australia. As I said to you earlier, I do not think there is another program on local radio on which I get more unsolicited comments of praise and support than I do for that detailed conversation he has. In a sense it is the radio equivalent of the kinds of interviews that Andrew Denton used to run on television. I think he is very gifted. I appreciate that this change has generated concern in South Australia and that there is a feeling that something about the collective conversation element that Matthew Abrahams and David Bevan's <i>Soapbox</i> program used to bring has been lost. I know that our radio management team in South Australia is looking at that. We are aware of the concerns. We have had complaints raised and phone calls—</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—Can you provide—again, you may wish to provide this on notice—how many</p> | EC 86-87 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>complaints were made to the ABC switchboard about this.</p> <p>Mr Scott—We got a lot of them.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—Perhaps on notice you could provide how many complaints and how that tallies as a proportion of national complaints about any particular issue.</p> <p>Mr Scott—I would say that it is a significant level of complaint but is at about 10 per cent of the level we get when things really happen. I think it runs into the hundreds but there have been issues on which we have had thousands and thousands of complaints. But I will give you that detail.</p> | | | |
| 59 | ABC | MacDonald | Transcript of Doorstop Interview in Cairns | <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Maybe my invite got destroyed in the cyclone or something. Can I leave you with a transcript of a doorstep interview in Cairns on 17 February 2011. It was done by a local reporter, not an experienced political reporter, I understand, using questions provided by ABC News 24 – you can see the interview and the prepared questions. This was a press conference with the Prime Minister. There were no other journalists there. It ran all day on 24 but was also syndicated to every other channel, which means that this was the story of the day. It was a day when there was lots of talk around uranium in the ALP, criticism of Craig Emerson and quite a number of other stories.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—Surely you are not now trying to tell people what they should be asking?</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—Let me ask my question, Minister. Time is short.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ—That is what you are doing to the senator.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—What I am saying is that this was a very important trendsetter of the news for the day. None of the questions were about the other major issues. It was all about the Leader of the Opposition.</p> <p>Senator Conroy—You can criticise what is asked, but you cannot start telling them what to ask.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am going to give this to you, if I may, Mr Scott-</p> <p>Mr Scott—We will take a look at it, Senator.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—and ask, in view of the circumstances and the background that I portrayed, whether you think that was a fair distribution of questions-</p> <p>Senator Conroy—You think it is important – I do not.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—from ABC News 24 to a local reporter-</p> <p>Senator Conroy—That is an outrageous question that goes to your political bias- nothing else, Senator Macdonald.</p> <p>Senator IAN MACDONALD—I am just ignoring you, Minister.</p> | EC 85 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | Mr Scott —The only thing I would say about News 24 is that we are using our local reporters in the regions to conduct interviews when leading figures are outside the major capitals. So that would not be unusual and it would not be unusual that areas of questions are provided. But I am happy to take that on notice. | | | |
| 60 | ABC | Xenophon | New 7:30 structure | <p>Senator XENOPHON—On the issue of local content, what guarantees are there that the new 7.30 structure will give what I think is known at the ABC as the BAPH states—named for the capitals Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart—greater editorial control and time for stories from those states?</p> <p>Mr Scott—As we reviewed the 7.30 Report with the changes that were inevitably going to happen at the end of last year, one of the things we were very conscious of is how you give appropriate weight to state based current affairs stories. I think there is an argument, and it is an interesting debate, as to whether in fact focus on state based current affairs issues was diminished with the loss of the state based 7.30 Report, but that was almost 15 years ago now. We are keen in our format, particularly on a Friday night but certainly at other times during the week, to be able to allow a focus on appropriate state based issues where important. We will have a mechanism whereby we can do that and we will be able to measure local content and need to justify the decisions we make on local content.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—In the old 7.30 Report—again, on notice unless you have it at your fingertips—what percentage of stories came from the BAPH states and what percentage from South Australia, as a standalone figure? To what extent will the local state edition of 7.30 on a Friday be subject to greater editorial control or instruction from producers in Sydney? That is a concern that has been expressed to me.</p> <p>Mr Scott—I can understand that. I will get those first figures back to you on notice. The new 7.30 program hosted by Leigh Sales and Chris Uhlmann goes to air on Monday week. There will of course be some strong local issues in some states. State elections are looming in some states. There are the critical local issues we have been dealing with in recent months that will need to be followed up on. I think the best test of how we go in delivering the national and the local will be evident as that program goes to air, as it beds down and as we look at the data that emerges from that. We looked seriously at how you increase local input and coverage of local stories. The creation of the new 7.30 has certainly not been driven by an attempt to increasingly centralise and nationalise.</p> <p>Senator XENOPHON—You can understand the fear that it would be.</p> <p>Mr Scott—I can understand that, but that has not been a driver. In fact more of our conversations have been around how you ensure that when there is a significant local story that is of importance at a state level but does not pass the national</p> | EC 87-88 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | threshold you can get that to a significant audience at 7.30. Senator XENOPHON —I look forward to those figures. Finally, is there a commitment to review the issue of the loss of <i>Soapbox</i> on 891? | | | |
| 61 | ABC | Ludlam | What percentage of ABC 1 on-air time is currently dedicated to first-run Indigenous content? | Senator LUDLAM —I might ask you to take the next question on notice because I do not know if you will have it in front of you. Can you tell us what percentage of ABC 1 on-air time is currently dedicated to first-run Indigenous content? Mr Scott —I will have to take that on notice. The one thing I would say is that it is going to increase with the slate that we are developing now. In part, it is about how you define Indigenous content. But we have a significant amount of drama that is under way. These issues are being extensively addressed in Television's strategic plan. We will be able to give you the current numbers. Senator LUDLAM —And also any definitions that you stick to. Mr Scott —Sure. Senator LUDLAM —Either a percentage or as hours would be helpful. Mr Scott —Yes. Senator LUDLAM —While we are on that subject, in the past 12 months, how much of that content was broadcast in prime time or during the official ratings period? | EC 89 (22/02/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 62 | ABC | Birmingham | 2009 Budget Papers savings | Senator BIRMINGHAM —Thank you. I have previously pursued—I think this was all tied up at one stage into the illustrious program W and so on, and I will not try to go back there. In the 2009 budget papers there were some departmental savings identified for the ABC described as distribution and transmission efficiencies. At that stage they were earmarked in the budget papers as not for publication because they were part of commercial negotiations that were occurring. Mr Scott —Commercial in confidence, yes. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Were those savings realised? Mr Pendleton —There are two levels of savings that have been identified within the budget papers. One relates to the commencement of switch-off of some of the analogue around the transmission. There were other savings contemplated in terms of synergistic benefits or efficiencies that could be found in the transmission services. Partly those come from looking at working with SBS in delivering some of that benefit. We are on track to deliver, for our part anyway, a number of those efficiency savings. The joint ones we are still working with SBS on and talking to SBS about what scope and opportunity there is. We have yet to really identify anything that comes from working together. It is the nature of the contracts we have with the service providers and the confidentiality clauses that sit within them. But certainly the savings that we are required to find for the budget we will find from those line items. | EC 90-91 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—By when are you required to find these? They were identified for the 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12 financial years.</p> <p>Mr Pendleton—Definitely within the triennium. There would be some due, I think, next year.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—There were some due in each year. There was a not-for-publication amount for each of those three years. One has well and truly gone and the second is almost complete. So have savings been returned to government as a result of that?</p> <p>Mr Pendleton—I would have to take on notice whether we have actually returned anything as yet from it. But certainly over the triennium we will return the required amounts from the transmission line.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—If you could provide us with some detail in relation to that on notice it would be appreciated.</p> | | | |
| 63 | ABC | Birmingham | ABC | <p>Please detail savings made by the ABC through its cost sharing arrangement with SBS announced in the 2009-10 budget, but listed 'not for publication'.</p> <p>Have savings been made through this arrangement?</p> <p>In what areas?</p> <p>Have savings been returned to the government or reduced the ABC's budget appropriation?</p> <p>Are any further savings expected?</p> <p>What funds were budgeted for the establishment of News24?</p> <p>Have costs been within originally budgeted funds or have additional funds been required?</p> <p>If so, how much?</p> <p>What ABC divisions have faced reduced funding this year?</p> <p>By what amounts?</p> <p>How much of these funds have been redirected to fund News24?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 64 | ABC | Birmingham | Australia Network | <p>How many viewers each week on average is the Australia Network attracting?</p> <p>Has there been a steady build up of audience numbers?</p> <p>What causes increases in audience numbers – i.e. is it the AFL grand finals, civil unrest, trade visits?</p> <p>Can I get a breakdown of where viewers are coming from and what their interest are?</p> <p>Can you give me an example of what types of specific program activities the channel undertook during for example the Bangkok Uprising?</p> <p>How did the channel through its programs "present an Australian perspective" on what was happening?</p> <p>How many people in Thailand watched the channel during that time?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>Was this an increase in its audience?</p> <p>Are there other examples you can give of how the channel covered a specific event and was able to increase its audience share and “present an Australian perspective?” (If the answer is only through ABC correspondents’ NEWS REPORTS – were these news reports vetted by DFAT? How was this the “Australian” perspective on the civil unrest?</p> <p>Who does ABC see as its competitors in the region, i.e. Al Jazeera CCTV, DW, BBC World, and France24?</p> <p>How have those channels grown their market share in contrast to the ABC?</p> <p>At the start of the contract was the ABC given a specific target for audience numbers?</p> <p>If so have you reached that?</p> <p>If not why?</p> <p>Has the ABC improved its channel ranking? (The measurement is down by Synovate and PAX.)</p> <p>How has the ABC gone about attracting advertising?</p> <p>Were there targets set for advertising?</p> | | | |
| 65 | ABC | Birmingham | China | <p>Obviously a very important political, economically and social market for Australia is China. What sort of impact has the channel had in reaching a Chinese audience?</p> <p>How close are the ABC to achieving landing rights in China?</p> <p>How does the ABC match its goal of frank and fearless reporting in China with their role in achieving diplomacy outcomes for the Australian government?</p> <p>How would Australian exporters to China say the Network benefitted them?</p> <p>The Network receives \$20 million a year from Australians tax payers. Have you been able to quantify your value-add to Australian trade, etc?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 66 | ABC | Birmingham | Digital Media | <p>Over the past couple of months in particular we have seen the impact of digital media in countries like Egypt. Twitter especially has played a big role.</p> <p>What digital media assets does the ABC operate for the Australian Network?</p> <p>How important does the ABC see twitter? (If important: Why then does the Australia Network have less than 200 followers? Why is there no content on the Australian Network facebook site?</p> <p>Does the Australia Network have a dedicated social media unit?</p> <p>Given the lack of seriousness with which the ABC has approached this channel so far, isn't it just using the contract as a form of cross-subsidization of its other services?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 67 | ABC | Fisher | 7:30 Program | <p>What was the original projected start date for the new 7:30 program on ABC TV?</p> <p>Have there been any delays in the buildings of the sets for the 7:30 program?</p> <p>What has been the total cost of building the sets for 7:30?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | Can a break-down be provided of all costs in the construction of the new set? Is it expected that the building of the sets come in under budget? | | | |
| 68 | ABC | Fisher | AM and PM Programs on ABC Radio | How long has the ABC radio's AM and PM programs current presentation format been in place? How long have the producers of those programs been in their current positions as producers of the shows? Is the ABC looking to change the presentation format in the future? If not, why not? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 69 | ABC | Macdonald | Cyclone Season | Why did ABC decide to wait until the beginning of the 'cyclone season' to start refurbishments at the Townsville office? When will the refurbishments be complete at the ABC Townsville office? What is the current cyclone category rating at the Townsville office – and what will it be after the refurbishment is complete? What is the cyclone category rating of premises in Mackay, Cairns and Rockhampton? Are there any plans to upgrade offices in North and Central Queensland to increase the cyclone category rating of the buildings? If any ABC offices in North Queensland need to be evacuated as a cyclone approaches (as in the case of Cyclone Yasi) are plans set in place to move staff to another building or premises? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 70 | ABC | Humphries | ABC Canberra Digital Stream | When will ABC Canberra transmit via digital stream? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 71 | SBS | Birmingham | Savings from cost sharing arrangement with ABC | Please detail savings made by the SBS through its cost sharing arrangement with ABC announced in the 2009-10 budget, but listed 'not for publication'. Have savings been made through this arrangement? In what areas? Have savings been returned to the government or reduced the ABC's budget appropriation? Are any further savings expected? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 72 | SBS | Birmingham | Paul McGeough's trip to Iraq | Did SBS co-sponsor Paul McGeough's trip to Iraq in October 2010? How much did SBS contribute to this exercise? Please provide a breakdown of costs paid by SBS. Was security for Mr McGeough one of those costs? If so, how much was budgeted for security costs? How much was spent on security costs? Were any security services paid for but not utilised by Mr McGeough? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 73 | ACMA | Birmingham | Investigation into al-Manar | Senator BIRMINGHAM —Thank you, Mr Chapman. In relation to the breaches that were found for al- Manar in your review and the consequences of that in the | EC 93-94 (22/02/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | (breaches) | <p>immediate term, the practical outcome is that there are few if any consequences for al-Manar in their broadcasting to Australia despite those breaches, because practically you are unable to enforce the open narrowcast code on an overseas broadcaster?</p> <p>Ms Wright—I think we would argue that the investigation was conducted without a specific complaint about the program to us. This was an area that we opened up of our own volition to diagnose whether there were problems, and we are now moving to a systemic remedy.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—I appreciate that but the question I asked was about the immediate consequences. You have undertaken a review of al-Manar. There may not have been a specific complaint about these specific programs that you identified but there were certainly complaints to the ACMA about al-Manar. They may have been more generic, although I think some of them over time highlighted some examples. There were certainly issues raised here about al-Manar as well. I appreciate that you have identified—and I want to go to those issues—the need to reform the antiterrorism standards. But before we get there—and it is certainly not your fault—I just want to clarify the impact of this review as to whether in fact there is any change to al- Manar’s capacity to broadcast in Australia and whether there is any repercussion to them whatsoever from the negative findings that have been made.</p> <p>Mr Chapman—I cannot speculate as to whether our breach has had any material impact on the service.</p> <p>The short and accepted point is that, given that the al-Manar service falls into the category of an open narrowcasting television service, and in accordance with section 12(2) of the Broadcasting Services Act, it does not require an individual licence but is provided under a class licence under that act. The consequence with respect to the ACMA’s direct jurisdiction and ability to impact the service as a result of the breach of that code is that there is little direct impact we can have.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—I understand the reasons and the challenges you face in that regard but I wanted to be clear on that. You have identified that to be able to more effectively tackle issues such as these you require reform to the antiterrorism standards. Hypothetically, if breaches of those standards were to be identified and upheld, what action would the ACMA then be able to take against a broadcaster like al-Manar broadcasting from overseas?</p> <p>Ms Wright—Senator, they were the three points that I outlined earlier, including</p> | | | |

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| | | | | <p>two pathways through the Federal Court as well as the direct licensee direction. The standard opens up three pathways for us. As Mr Chapman said, we have just concluded public consultation on wording this standard to ensure—I guess we have nailed it. As I said, that will open up pathways for us that are not available under the code. I am happy to run through them again if you want.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—Okay—practically, if you could, for those of us who do not understand all of the codes and all of the implications. Al-Manar is produced by Hezbollah. It is, I gather, broadcast into Australia by providers out of Indonesia, if my recollection is correct. So in terms of your opportunity through the antiterrorism standards to have recourse to the Federal Court, or those three points that you raised, what are the practical outcomes for al-Manar's capacity to broadcast—or, hypothetically, anybody else who breached the standards to broadcast—by following those things? Would you be able to get the signal broadcast into Australia blocked?</p> <p>Ms Wright—As I understand it—perhaps we can provide a more precise answer to you on notice—we do have international arrangements in some of these circumstances with overseas countries in relation to these services, and the standard would enable us to leverage those. But, as I said, we are happy to take that on notice and provide you with more detail.</p> <p>Senator BIRMINGHAM—So we would expect that another country would help us to enforce a Federal Court order barring the transmission of a signal of something into Australia—that is the type of agreement you are talking about?</p> <p>Mr Chapman—I do not think it goes that far. I think it is fair to say that, with respect to the enforcement of any order we would seek from the Federal Court, the ability to serve that order and have an impact on a body that supplies outside the Australian jurisdiction is a practical and pragmatic shortcoming that any number of organisations face with respect to organisations outside their jurisdiction. In that sense we are no different.</p> | | | |
| 74 | ACMA | Fisher | Converging World | <p>Senator FISHER—Mr Chapman, you have spoken of the relevance of a converging world in communications. Can you answer on notice whether you think regulation—at the moment by ACMA—is somehow compromised by having to focus sector by sector, as it were, rather than on a converged world, and whether there is a better way to do it.</p> <p>Mr Chapman—I am happy to take that on notice.</p> | EC 95 (22/02/11) | 04/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 75 | ACMA | Ludlam | ISPs | <p>Senator LUDLAM—As the minister mentioned before. How frequently would the list be updated and transmitted to the ISPs?</p> | EC 98 (22/02/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | Mr Rizvi —My understanding is that at present ACMA updates that list on a weekly basis. As to precisely how often it will be transmitting it, I would need to take that on notice. ACMA would be better placed to advise. | | | |
| 76 | ACMA | Colbeck | ABC Tasmania and relocation | Has the ABC in Tasmania been formally advised of ACMA's response to the request to improve FM Radio Services in North West Tasmania (ABC Tasmania, letter of 7 Oct. 10)? If so, when? ACMA has previously advised that they had investigated and believed it possible to relocate the existing low power local service to a more prominent site and increase its power. Where is the proposed site that the existing low power service will be relocated too? What is the cost for relocation? When is the relocation to proceed? What is the current power of the existing local service? And by how much will the power be increased? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 77 | ACMA | Humphries | Spectrum | The <i>Radiocommunications Act 1992</i> , introduced by the Keating Government, specified that the system must make adequate provision of spectrum for law enforcement and emergency services, that charging for spectrum must also take into account the value of non-commercial use of spectrum,(In other words, the public safety agencies should not be expected to pay the commercial rate for their spectrum) and finally, the Act provided for spectrum to be reserved for these essential public purposes so that they would not have to compete at auction for spectrum. What is the government doing to provide the necessary spectrum in the 700MHz band for police and emergency services? | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 78 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Rollout | Please provide a list of all suburbs which will be included in Stage 2 rollouts of the NBN | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 79 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Rollout | When will clear maps be available of the roll out area so that people will be able to tell if their suburb or street will be affected by the rollout? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 80 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Rollout | How were these and other early rollout sites selected? Are these black spot areas or areas with known poor service? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 81 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Rollout | When will the NBN trials begin in Armidale and Kiama? When will Telehealth trials in these areas begin? How many practices will take part? What is the nature of medical services being trialled? What will this trial cost? Please provide a breakdown of these costs? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 82 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Rollout | Are RSP's required to provide identical (so far as the technologies allow) basic service options at the same price through wifi or satellite service as they will to customers via fibre? Is it possible that those on wifi/satellite services might end up paying more for the equivalent basic internet service as people on fibre connections? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 83 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | The wholesale cost for a connection to the NBN at the basic speed of 12 mbps is modelled to be \$24. How does this compare to the cheapest wholesale prices for a basic home phone service bundled with a dial-up or ADSL internet service available through the copper network? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 84 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | Telstra's recently released half year results confirmed that demand and revenue for fixed line services is collapsing. What reason do we have to believe that a government owned wholesale network will be able to reverse this trend and provide a positive rate of return? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 85 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | The Government provided \$250 million in Budget 2009 for the backbone Blackspots program, to install the network of backhaul in regional Australia. Who will retain ownership of the backhaul links being rolled out by the Government – will it be NBN Co or will the Government retain ownership? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 86 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | Is the \$250 million budgeted for Backhaul Blackspots Program for backhaul links treated as a capital expense within the NBN's business case? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 87 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | Given that Minister Conroy constantly refers to the Backbone Blackspots program as part of the NBN, why was the original program budgeted separately from the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 88 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless technologies | The new Minister for Infrastructure in Tasmania, Mr O'Byrne has referred to the NBN's wireless service for regional Australia as not ideal and requiring a longer term fibre solution. Is this the view of NBN Co? | Written (1/03/11) | 03/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 89 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless technologies | Does the NBN have a plan to ensure the rate of return remains above the bond rate if it becomes obvious in the next few years that the proportion of wireless-only households continues to increase exponentially? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 90 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless technologies | The European technology research group Idate released a report last week suggesting that global usage of Long Term Evolution wireless services will increase from almost zero penetration globally in 2011 to 371 million global users in 2015. Does the Department/NBN Co expect similar types of growth rates for LTE and 4G technology in Australia? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 91 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | The Tasmanian legislation stipulates that where owner(s) of a premise have elected not to have the NBN cable installed, that election is binding on any person to whom ownership of the premises is transferred unless the new owner consents. How will | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | the new owner be informed that there is no NBN Cable installed in the premises? | | | |
| 92 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | Who will the new owner be required to contact to receive an installation – will it be NBN Co or the contracting company? How will the contact details be provided to the new owner? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 93 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Can NBN Co explain the difference between the community consultation sessions it undertakes and the Community Forums held by the Department? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 94 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Does NBN Co believe it is necessary to hold both community consultation sessions and departmental community forums? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 95 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | Do NBN Co and the Government agree with the assessment of Shaw Stockbroking, that this wholesale price is likely to result in a retail price of \$56 per month for a 50Gb 12mbps down speed and a 1mbps up speed? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 96 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | What analysis has been undertaken with respect to price points for basic broadband services specifically in lower socio-demographic areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 97 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | What analysis has been undertaken with respect to price points for basic broadband services in rural and regional Australia? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 98 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | On p.305 of the McKinsey NBN Implementation Report, it states: “Industry participants are better positioned than NBN Co to construct the [wireless] network as they would be able to construct and operate a network at a significant discount to NBN Co.” Why does the NBN Co believe that it will be able to operate the wireless market more efficiently than private companies? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 99 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | The Government’s NBN website states that under the NBN people in regional and rural areas will either receive optical fibre, or next-generation wireless and satellite services. What is the Government’s definition of “next-generation”? Does it relate to 3g or to 4g technology? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 100 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | In terms of wireless growth, the Minister said in a speech to the AMTA in March last year that “looking to the future, in terms of demand for wireless broadband, it looks like there will be exponential growth for years to come.” Is this still the view of the Minister, and the Department? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 101 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | If the Minister believes that wireless growth will be exponential, why does the NBN business case predict that wireless-only households will only grow by 25 per cent over the next 14 years, when wireless only households have grown by over 200 per cent in the last 6 years? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 102 | Program 1.1 | Birmingham | Wireless | Will the Department confirm whether or not the NBN will be profitable if wireless | Written | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | NBN Implementation | | bandwidth | technologies continue at the current take-up rate as the past few years? | (1/03/11) | | |
| 103 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | What steps has the Government taken to ensure the company's internal controls and financial governance are robust, and the interests of Australian taxpayers are fully and properly protected? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 104 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | What formal recruitment and vetting processes were used by the Government and NBN Co in 2009 prior to choosing Mr Quigley and Mr Beaufret for their respective roles at NBN Co? | Written (1/03/11) | 19/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 105 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | What knowledge of the bribery investigation by the US Securities and Exchange Commission at Alcatel did the Government have prior to appointing Mr Quigley as CEO in July 2009 and Mr Beaufret as CFO in September 2009? | Written (1/03/11) | 19/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 106 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | Did Mr Quigley or Mr Beaufret disclose it was underway prior to their appointment? If the Government was aware of the investigation, as it ought to have been, how did it establish that Mr Quigley and Mr Beaufret were neither directly involved nor indirectly responsible for the "lax corporate control environment" noted by the SEC? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 107 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Pricing | Is it correct that Mr Beaufret is in charge of NBN Co's internal controls and financial governance? How exactly has the Government made itself comfortable with the proposition that Mr Beaufret will perform these duties better as CFO of NBN Co than he did as CFO of Alcatel? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 108 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | How many schools and TAFE campuses across Australia currently have a fibre internet connection? Can the Department provide a list of each of these schools and TAFE campuses? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 109 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | The NSW Government has completed a project with Telstra to connect 2,400 school and TAFE sites across NSW to a fibre network. Will NBN Co be required to rollout its own fibre network to these schools already connected to fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 26/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 110 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | How many schools across Australia will be connected to either wireless or satellite under the NBN and will not receive a fibre connection? | Written (1/03/11) | 29/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 111 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | Will schools and TAFE campuses with a pre-existing fibre connection be required to connect to the NBN or can they maintain connection to their existing network? | Written (1/03/11) | 26/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 112 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | What download speeds are currently available to schools with a fibre connection? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 113 | Program 1.1 NBN | Birmingham | Access for Schools | Queensland's Department of Education and Training are trialling iPad and wireless devices in schools to promote learning outcomes. When the NBN is installed in | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | Implementation | | | schools, will the Department guarantee that students will be able to connect iPads and wireless devices through the necessary wifi technology? | | | |
| 114 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | Reports have been made regarding the Circular Head Christian School in Tasmania, which was the first primary school connected to the NBN. The school claimed that the connection was running full speed at 100 mbps at the day the Government launched the service, but has since averages less than a third of this speed. After these reports surfaced (and five days later), the speed was fixed. Why did the connection at Circular Head Christian School fall below less than a third of what was promised? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 115 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | What level of contact has the Department or NBN Co had with Circular Head Christian School? Is it in contact regularly to monitor speeds and implementation of the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 116 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | Did NBN Co or the Department take a role in ensuring that Circular Head Christian School's speed was increased after reports that it had slowed significantly? If so, what was the role taken by the Department to increase the speed? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 117 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Access for Schools | The school has reportedly said that it is "urging the Government to speed up the rollout, so that it can connect to other schools." Why can't the school connect to other schools which have a fast ADSL connection, or which already have fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 118 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Boswell | Wireless | Does the government still maintain that by 2020 twenty five percent of Australian households will have wireless technology, and how has the government reached these assumptions? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 119 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Boswell | Wireless | If the amount of wireless households in Australia goes beyond twenty five percent, how does the Government intend to ensure that the NBN remains a viable project? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 120 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Boswell | Line Rental | The Government maintains that the set line will enable people in the country to obtain fast efficient broad band where wireless cannot. One issue that has been raised is that set line broad band will carry with it an additional line rental fee. People in the city who have access to wireless don't have to pay this fee. However, by adding a line rental to the already existing broad band service, isn't NBN Co forcing people in the bush and country areas to pay an extra fee that people in the city don't have to pay? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 121 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Competition & Consumer Safeguards Bill | Has the Government, through any of its Ministers or otherwise, given any indications or made any overtures to the Greens or Senator Xenophon – for example, at the eleventh hour during the debate of the Competition and Consumer Safeguards bill in the Senate or since – about the commencement date of that committee? | EC 110 (22/02/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 122 | Program 1.1 | Fisher | Competition & | What did the Prime Minister mean when she says in her letter: 'The committee | EC 110 | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | NBN Implementation | | Consumer Safeguards Bill | would be able to call witnesses, including MPs, about the performance of the NBN or other matters of interest?' What could she have meant? Were you consulted by the PM in the drafting of this letter, given that your Department was not? Who wrote it? | (22/02/11) | | |
| 123 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Competition & Consumer Safeguards Bill | [The Prime Minister] goes on to say as of 23 November last year: 'The government will be writing to the Productivity Commission and the ACCC to advise against these arrangements,' because earlier on she confirms that those bodies and NBN Co will, if required, appear and contribute advice to the committee. Does anyone at the table know whether or not the government has written to the Productivity Commission and the ACCC some three months later? | EC 110 (22/02/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 124 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Competition & Consumer Safeguards Bill | The government is pretty keen to get this joint parliamentary committee up and running isn't it? | EC 110 (22/02/11) | 29/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 125 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | NBN CO Business Case | Is there a legislative guarantee with regard to the provision of uniform wholesale pricing of the NBN services throughout all regions of Australia? What sort of indexation will apply to the wholesale charge increases per annum? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 126 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | NBN CO Business Case | Another Australian company, Vividwireless says it is sufficiently impressed with the price and performance of LTE technology that it could use it for the deployment of planned network expansions in major East Coast capital cities. According to vividwireless, its two month trial has delivered peak downstream bandwidths up to 128Mbps and consistent bandwidths between 40 - 70Mbps using 20MHz of spectrum in the 2.3GHz band. Once again, are these test results at all concerning in terms of the long-term viability of the NBN project? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 127 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | What portion of the \$9 billion paid to Telstra is for leasing its infrastructure and what portion is for Telstra migrating its customers? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 128 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | Given that the Government still has to pass the NBN Companies Bill and Access Arrangements Act through Parliament and a definitive agreement is yet to be signed with Telstra, how confident are you that that can be done before June? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 129 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | International comparisons to NBN | On February 9 this year, a spokesperson for Minister Conroy said that "investment in Australia's road, rail, telecommunications and utility infrastructure faces vastly different factors than countries such as South Korea". Can the Department explain what these factors are and the difference between those factors in Australia and South Korea? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 130 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | International comparisons to NBN | Is it therefore inappropriate to also compare Australia's broadband infrastructure with countries such as Japan, Singapore and Sweden? | Written (1/03/11) | 02/05/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 131 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | International comparisons to NBN | A spokesperson for Senator Conroy on February 9 called comparisons to South Korea like comparing “apples with oranges”. Does this mean that all previous comparisons between Australia’s and South Korea’s broadband networks are incorrect? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 132 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | International comparisons to NBN | The Department’s NBN website suggests that the NBN is needed because “Australia’s broadband infrastructure is falling behind technology leaders like South Korea.” Why is this particular comparison to South Korea correct where other comparisons are incorrect? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 133 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | International comparisons to NBN | If comparisons to South Korea are not appropriate, what does the Department believe are some countries that it is appropriate to compare Australia’s broadband infrastructure needs to? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 134 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | NBN Rollout | The Government has stated that 1 gigabyte speeds will be available over the NBN in the future. What date will these speeds become available? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 135 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | NBN Rollout | Is the Department measuring any economic indicators in the first release sites after the NBN rollout is complete to judge any impact upon the local economy? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 136 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Contractors | NBN Co and the Tasmania government scrapped the original agreement with Aurora Energy to provide Aurora with equity in a privatised NBN. What were the reasons behind this decision? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 137 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Contractors | Was the decision to end the joint venture agreement with Aurora a political decision with relation to the fact that the Government does not know if NBN Co will eventually be privatised? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 138 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | NBN Rollout | Has NBN Co considered delaying the rollout in Brisbane? Whose decision would this rest with – NBN Co or the Minister? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 139 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Labour Market | Does the Australian workforce currently have the capacity to provide workers for an installation rate of 6,000 homes each day? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 140 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Fisher | Labour Market | Has NBN Co or the Department made any requests to the Department of immigration to relax visa requirements and encourage skilled migration for the purposes of installing the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 141 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | When NBN Co becomes privatised, will the private operators be permitted to charge an additional cost to ISPs who wish to access the transit backhaul? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 142 | Program 1.1 NBN | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | If not, how will the Government force NBN Co’s private owners from charging for backhaul usage – through agreement or through legislative instrument? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | Implementation | | | | | | |
| 143 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | Is the Government effectively preventing technological advances by implementing cherry picking laws and ensuring network technology must remain at the same level as the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 144 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | The Business case states that the Government will consider the introduction of a levy, if necessary, to prevent opportunistic Cherry Picking. Can NBN Co explain how a levy would operate and why it would be necessary if laws are in place that prevents companies from offering a higher level of service to NBN Co? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 145 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | Can NBN Co list the number of companies involved in building current wholesale networks, and which will be affected by the cherry picking laws? | Written (1/03/11) | 10/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 146 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | Under the Cherry Picking arrangements, can NBN Co explain what the status will be regarding networks that are currently being built? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 147 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | Under the Cherry Picking arrangements, can NBN Co explain what the status will be regarding operators who wish to upgrade their network in the future – what about cases where the operators has a contract to continually upgrade the network? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 148 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | Does NBN Co believe it will be subject to compensation claims after implementing the cherry picker laws by parties with a current commercial contract that will be impacted by the new laws? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 149 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | I want to ask some questions about the basis on which the government cancelled the OPEL contract, which was the subject of questions at this committee in 27 May 2008. Particularly I want to know about the database developed by the Department of underserved premises, against which proposals under the Broadband Connect Infrastructure Program (BCIP) were assessed. This database was prepared in 2006, was it not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 150 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Under the BCIP, the definition of ‘underserved premises’ was premises which were not already served by a metro-comparable broadband service, is that right? Was this the definition used in determining which premises would be included on the Department’s database? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 151 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | It is true, is it not, that under the BCIP Guidelines those putting forward proposals were required to offer “metro-comparable” broadband services? I am reading here from page 12 of the Broadband Connect Infrastructure Program Guidelines: “ The minimum required services to be offered by all proposed projects are wholesale broadband services that enable retail providers purchasing those services to offer metro-comparable broadband services to residential and small business customers in the target coverage area. Metro-comparable services are services that are | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | broadly equivalent in performance, quality and price to mainstream services being offered to residential and small business customers in metropolitan markets at the time services are being deployed (up to June 2009)”? | | | |
| 152 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | It is true, is it not, that the OPEL bid was chosen on the basis that it satisfied this requirement by delivering a 6 Mbps service initially, rising to 12 Mbps by 2009? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 153 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Does that mean that a 6 Mbps service, rising to 12 Mbps, was considered to be a metro-comparable service? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 154 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Mr Bryant told this committee on 27 May 2008, did he not, that the metro comparable standard was the one applicable under the Australian Broadband Guarantee: “The metro comparable standard at that time I think was 512 kilobits download, 128 kilobits upload and a one gigabyte per month download limit.”? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 155 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | There is quite a difference between 512K and 6 Mbps, is there not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 156 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | It is true, is it not, that when it came to determining which premises were underserved premises, and therefore how many underserved premises there were in total, a critical question to determine in each case was whether the premises had access to a metro comparable service or not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 157 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | It is very likely, is it not, that if you tested this by asking how many premises did not have access to even a 512Kbps service, you would get one figure for the total number of underserved premises; but if you tested it by asking how many premises did not have access to, for example, a 6 Mbps service, you would get a significantly higher figure for the total number of underserved premises. | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 158 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | The Department’s database contained 787,000 premises, as Mr Bryant told this committee on 27 May 1008? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 159 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | This database was not made available to OPEL before it submitted its proposal for funding under the BCIP, was it? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 160 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Why did the Department not make its database available to all parties wishing to lodge a proposal, in advance of them doing so? Wouldn’t doing so have saved a lot of trouble, confusion and expense? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 161 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Could the Department’s database have been replicated using publicly available data by a third party other than the Department? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 162 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | In view of the Department's approach to this issue, OPEL would have had no choice but to develop its own database, would it not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 163 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Mr Bryant advised this committee on 27 May 2008 that OPEL's database contained 1.4 million underserved premises, did he not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 164 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | When did the Department become aware of the discrepancies between its database and OPEL's? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 165 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | When the Department became aware of the discrepancies between its database and OPEL's, did the Department make any effort to determine whether the discrepancies were due to errors on its part in applying the definition of 'underserved premises', or did it assume that all the errors were on OPEL's side? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 166 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | When the Department became aware of the discrepancies between its database and OPEL's, did it make any efforts to work with OPEL to resolve the discrepancies and come up with an agreed database? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 167 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Did the Department consider submitting both its database and OPEL's database to independent expert analysis, to determine the basis for the discrepancy? If not, why not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 168 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Mr Bryant advised this committee on 27 May 2008 that a source of the discrepancy was that the government's database excluded 360,000 premises which OPEL treated as underserved but which the government considered were served by premises receiving wireless services under the Australian Broadband Guarantee. What are the other sources of the discrepancy, given that this explains only about half of the difference? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 169 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Was the Department's database developed using as a starting point a dataset of so-called GNAFs (standing for Geocoded National Address File) obtained from PSMA limited, formerly the Public Service Mapping Agency? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 170 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Did the Department's database contain data points which were not GNAFs? If so, what is the basis on which these were included in the database? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 171 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | How many premises did the Department's database identify as underserved on the basis that they were on a line with a pair gain system? How many premises did OPEL's database identify as underserved on this basis? If there is a discrepancy, what is the reason for it? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 172 | Program 1.1 Networks policy | Birmingham | OPEL | How many premises did the Department's database identify as underserved on the basis that they were served by an exchange that was not equipped with a DSLAM? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | and regulation | | | How many premises did OPEL's database identify as underserved on this basis? If there is a discrepancy, what is the reason for it? | | | |
| 173 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | How many premises did the Department's database identify as underserved on the basis that they were too far away from the exchange to receive DSL services? How many premises did OPEL's database identify as underserved on this basis? If there is a discrepancy, what is the reason for it? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 174 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Birmingham | OPEL | Mr Bryant told this committee on 28 May 2008 that "the former government required equivalent coverage to 17.9 kilometres from the base stations." Was this requirement stated in the BCIP Program Guidelines? What was the policy basis for the 17.9 kilometre requirement? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 175 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation Division | Fisher | NBN Rollout | Brisbane City Council is currently working on an agreement with i3 Asia Pacific to install a high-speed broadband network in Brisbane using the sewer system as the primary means of laying cables. How has Brisbane Council's decision impacted upon NBN Co's planning for the Brisbane rollout ? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 176 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation Division | Fisher | NBN Rollout | Will any high-speed network installed by i3 Asia Pacific in Brisbane be subject to the cherry-picker laws currently being debated in Parliament? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 177 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | An ANAO report released on 16 February 2011 into the Australian Broadband Guarantee reports that the program blew out by around \$20 million in its four years of operation. The initial budget was \$258 million. However, the program has cost \$237.7 million. The program was initially worth \$2500 for customer and up to \$6000 per customer for participating ISPs. Can the Department provide numbers regarding the amount of broadband customers who have accessed the Australian Broadband Guarantee in each of its years in operation? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 178 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | The ANAO have recently detailed that the cost of the project was \$20 million above its budgeted cost. What are the reasons for the increase in costs – do they relate to number of customers, or do they relate to the types of premises that require installation? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 179 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | What budget did the Department meet the additional costs for the broadband guarantee program from? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 180 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | The program was initially worth around \$2500 per customer and \$6000 for each customer for participating ISPs. What has been the amount of money under the program that has been allocated to ISPs, and what amount has been allocated to customers? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 181 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | The Department stated to ComputerWorld Australia that the program is scheduled to end on 30 June this year, when satellite services through the NBN are expected to become available. Will these satellite services be available by 30 June? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 182 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | Will the broadband guarantee program be extended if satellite services do not become available by June 31? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 183 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | If not, what will happen to the thousands of customers who utilise the guarantee if they cannot afford their current internet connection and cannot access a new satellite scheme? Will the department guarantee that they will not lose internet services? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 184 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | The department has not clearly reported against its performance targets on the broadband services offered, and taken up, under the program and how they compare with services offered in metropolitan areas (para 51, Page 27 of ANAO report). Why not? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 185 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | Timely, reliable and accurate reports are essential for informed management decision making and are a key accountability mechanism. Routine internal management reports include ministerial reports, monthly traffic light reports (to the department's Executive) and weekly reports on customer service issues (within the ABG branch) (page 52). Although the department was advised that the Minister expected the reports to be provided within two to three weeks of month end, more than two thirds of the reports did not meet this timeframe. Why was this the case? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 186 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | In a number of instances, the reported figures in the internal reports could not be readily verified to relevant source data. DBCDE acknowledged that it did not routinely keep records of how it derived the reported figures. How can the veracity of the ABG be accurately determined without evidence-based internal reporting mechanisms in place? Do you find it incredulous that a program which had a budget of in excess of \$80m in 2009-10 (page 50 of ANAO report), repeatedly failed to provide appropriate internal management reports? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 187 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | In determining whether or not a customer of the ABG service was entitled to a subsidised service, Broadband Service Locators (BSL) are used to ascertain whether or not a customer falls within range of a Category A (commercial non – subsidised area) or a Category B or C subsidised area. In the six month period to 4 February 2009, the department inadvertently omitted 211 ADSL – enabled exchanges from the BSL. This meant that 351 customers received subsidised connections at total cost of \$875,183 (Page 67). Can the Department confirm that it was decided that the relevant ineligible subsidy payments would not be recovered from the service providers? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 188 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | A key component of the ABG compliance framework is the conduct of telephone surveys of ABG customers (known as telephone audits) (page 76). Telephone audits can provide DCBDE with reasonable assurance regarding the validity of claims lodged by providers. Where records (telephone audit spreadsheets) were available, many of the audits indicated that the customer was not able to be contacted (even after three or more attempts). However, it was not apparent that any follow up action had been taken to verify the existence of the customer. Why not? Given that the BSL allows for movements of a customer's premises "pin" (which shows the location of the customer's premises) does the Department consider that there is potential for possible fraudulent customer movement, by either a registered service provider or an end-user customer to an area which commands a higher level of subsidy? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 189 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | A significant proportion of complaints remained classified as level one (or level two) beyond the specified escalation timeframes. The longest period DCBDE took to resolve a complaint was about six months, compared to the timeframe of about three weeks implicit in the complaints resolution process (i.e. 17 working days). Why is the Department taking so long to resolve complaints arising from the program? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 190 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | Quarterly updates on TIO (Telecommunication Industry Ombudsman) complaints was one of the deliverables listed in the ABG Program Implementation Plan. An internal audit also recommended that DCBDE make better use of TIO complaints information relevant to the ABG program. The TIO data indicate that the most common complaints to that organisation involving ABG providers cover: faults; customer service; complaints handling; and billing and payments issues. The department has been slow to act in this regard. For example, the lack of monitoring and analysis of TIO complaints was still an issue when DCBDE's internal evaluation of the program was reported in November 2009. As at August 2010, the relationship between the TIO and DCBDE still had not been formalised, more than two years after the recommendation. Has there been any progress in this aspect of the complaints process? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 191 | Program 1.1 Networks policy and regulation | Fisher | Australian Broadband Guarantee | The ANAO reviewed the department's annual reporting for the three years of the program (2007-08 onwards). Generally, the department did not report program performance against the KPIs and performance targets set out in its PBS. Further, the performance information that was reported could not always be substantiated or reconciled with data held by the department, and other sources. Key aspects of the program's performance, such as service level, data speeds, data allowances and costs were also not regularly reported (page 100). How can the Department run an efficient and effective program without regular KPI reporting and assessment? | Written (1/03/11) | 05/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 192 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation Division | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | When NBN Co is privatised (assuming the Government does choose to privatise the NBN), will the private operators be permitted to alter the wholesale pricing figures contained in the NBN business case? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 193 | Program 1.1 NBN Implementation Division | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | If not, how will the Government ensure that the wholesale prices remain the same? | Written (1/03/11) | 27/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 194 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Rollout | When will the exact 93% of premises that will receive fibre be settled? When will households and business owners know for certain that their residence/premise will be in the fibre footprint or if they will need to pursue wifi or satellite connections? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 195 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Rollout | When will the rollout of wifi or satellite infrastructure be completed? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 196 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | In its business case, NBN Co estimates that 70 per cent of all homes will be connected to the NBN by 2025. How many of these connections will utilise speeds at the basic 12 mbps? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 197 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | Did NBN Co take the acquisition of Telstra's copper network and the \$13.8 billion cost into account when modelling the internal rate of return stipulated in the business case? If not, why not? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 198 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | What is the profit received by NBN Co for each wholesale connection at \$24 per month? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 199 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | Given that the current price for a wholesale line rental as mandated by the ACCC is \$25.57 per month, will NBN Co be receiving \$1.57 less revenue than currently received by Telstra for a wholesale line rental? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 200 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | As the current wholesale line rental price is \$25.57 per month, doesn't this result in a negative internal rate of return for the total NBN Co project? If not, why not? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 201 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Destruction of the copper network | Wholesale fixed internet services declined by 8.6 per cent on Telstra's copper network in the first half of financial year 10-11. Is it not the case that NBN Co's wholesale services will need to be more expensive than Telstra's in order to provide a positive return? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 202 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | In its initial submission to the ACCC on the number of Points of Interconnect to the NBN, NBN Co recommended 14 points of interconnect, all located in the capital cities. Can NBN Co explain the reasons why 14 points was an appropriate number? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 203 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | NBN Co compromised and agreed upon 120 points of interconnect after their initial proposal of 14 was criticised by the ACCC as being anti-competitive. Can NBN Co explain why it accepted the ACCC's advice? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 204 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | In NBN Co's business plan summary released in November, NBN Co state that if the Government mandates to implement a higher number of POI locations than 14, the rate of return on the NBN project could drop by as much as 80 basis points. How many basis points has the rate of return of the NBN dropped after accepting the ACCC's advice for 120 POI locations? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 205 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | Has the drop in basis points for the rate of return been included in the financial modelling within the business case released by NBN Co in December? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 206 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | NBN stated in their initial submission to the ACCC on the POI issue that a low consolidation plan of POI locations, such as the 120-location solution eventually accepted by NBN Co will not result in "end-to-end uniform national wholesale pricing because costs remain significant in regional areas." Can NBN Co explain how its decision to accept 120 locations will not prevent a uniform national wholesale price? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 206 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | NBN Co has released a list of where it intends the POIs to be located. How many currently operating points of interconnect in regional areas are not included on the list of 120 sites, and can NBN Co list each location for the Committee? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 208 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | Part of the problem with implementing just 14 POI sites was that existing backhaul links would have become stranded, resulting in compensation claims from telecommunication companies. How much backhaul will become obsolete under NBN Co's new plan for 120 POI locations? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 209 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | Is NBN Co expecting compensation claims as a result of its decision to choose 120 POI locations? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 210 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of | NBN Co will reportedly prevent Telstra from utilising its HFC Cable Network to | Written | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | provide wholesale broadband services, and will also prevent Optus from doing the same. What download speeds can be achieved through the HFC network? | (1/03/11) | | |
| 211 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | What are the reasons for preventing Telstra and Optus from utilising their HFC networks to provide wholesale broadband access? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 212 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | Is there a figure within the \$13.8 billion deal with Telstra that relates to the prevention of Telstra from utilising its HFC networks for broadband? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 213 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | How will NBN Co prevent Optus from using its HFC network for broadband access – does it plan to do this through agreement, or through a legislative instrument? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 214 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | What does NBN Co believe the current worth of Optus's HFC network is currently? Is NBN Co expecting a compensation claim from Optus if it is prevented from using its network through legislation or other means? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 215 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Points of Interconnect, HFC and compensation claims | Has NBN Co included the costs of providing Optus with compensation for its HFC cable into its financial modelling within the business case and its projected rate of return? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 216 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | Can NBN Co confirm that ISPs connected to the NBN will not pay any additional amounts for transit backhaul usage? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 217 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | The McKinsey implementation study recommended that transit backhaul usage be priced separately for access usage. Can NBN Co explain why it chose to include backhaul usage within the access price? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 218 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | What are the costs involved in providing open transit backhaul access on a network such as the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 219 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Backhaul links | Given that transit backhaul costs are included in the wholesale price, and the | Written | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | and usage costs | wholesale price will be uniform across Australia, is it accurate to state that ISPs based in the cities are subsidising the backhaul costs of regional based ISPs accessing that backhaul? | (1/03/11) | | |
| 220 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Backhaul links and usage costs | Would wholesale prices be cheaper if transit backhaul costs weren't included in the total wholesale price? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 221 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless technologies | NBN Co has said that communities receiving wireless will receive the "latest technologies" in wireless service. Why then has NBN Co refused to look at long term evolution technology as a solution to wireless access? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 222 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless technologies | How will an increase in wireless-only households impact upon the rate of return for the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 223 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless technologies | The Government released the review of NBN Co's business case by Greenhill Caliburn on 14 February. The report states that the viability of the NBN is at a risk from increased penetration of wireless and mobile technology. Does the NBN Co share the view of Greenhill Caliburn? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 224 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | The new requirements for NBN Co to install fibre in new housing estate developments started on 1 January 2011. Has NBN Co installed fibre in any developments so far this year? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 225 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | How many new developments and houses has NBN Co modelled that will request fibre installation during 2011? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 226 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | Who actually installs the fibre through the new development? The developer appears charged with its installation – does this mean that the developer can hire anyone to install the fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 227 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | NBN Co's website states that NBN Co will cover the cost of fibre infrastructure provided that developers install pit and pipe infrastructure to NBN Co's specifications. What will the case be where a developer has not installed pit and pipe infrastructure to these specifications? Will NBN Co request that the infrastructure is overbuilt? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 228 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | What is the average number of premises included within new housing estates? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 229 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates | NBN Co will not provide fibre to developments of less than 100 premises. Is it correct that most of these premises will be connected by Telstra to its copper | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | including sub-contractors | network? | | | |
| 230 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | For those new houses that are connected to Telstra's network, will NBN Co upgrade those houses to fibre as it continues its rollout? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 231 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | Is it true that NBN Co simply does not have the current resources to install fibre on small housing estates? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 232 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | Will developers of estates with less than 100 homes still be required to install pits and ducts to NBN Co's specifications for the purpose of future fibre installation? How will NBN Co encourage developers to meet these specifications? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 233 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | Given that the Government will decommission the copper network as the NBN is rolled out, how can it be cost-effective to connect homes to copper and then replace it with fibre at a later date? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 234 | NBN Co | Birmingham | New Housing Estates including sub-contractors | Is it not easier and less costly to install fibre on a new development rather than install it on existing premises and over the copper network? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 235 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | Can you give a brief overview of how NBN Co believes that the opt-out provisions will operate in Tasmania? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 236 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | What level of input did NBN Co have into the drafting of the Tasmanian opt-out provisions? Is this your preferred model? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 237 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | Do you envisage that the Tasmanian model will be the model used in the mainland states with regards to implementing opt-out provisions? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 238 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | In Tasmania, who has the responsibility of giving notice to residents that an NBN connection will be installed? Will it be NBN Co or the contractors installing the cable? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 239 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | Will the owner(s) of the premises be required to be present when the installer is installing the cable? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 240 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | Who will be liable for any damage or loss of property as a result of NBN installers accessing the property of residents? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 241 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | How many homes across Australia does NBN Co believe will opt-out of having the NBN installed? Was this figure incorporated into the modelling used for NBN Co's | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | business case? | | | |
| 242 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | What is the average cost to NBN Co of installing cable at each premise? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 243 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | The NBN business case assumes that 12.4 per cent of premises will not connect to the NBN, and a further 16.3 per cent of premises will be wireless only by 2025. What proportion of unconnected and wireless only homes will have the NBN cable installed under opt-out provisions? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 244 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Opt-Out Provisions | Have any other states indicated an intention to pursue an opt-out approach to NBN Co or has NBN Co asked any other states to consider opt-out arrangements? If so, please detail which state(s) and what arrangements have been discussed? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 245 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | NBN Co's business case states that "new fibre networks built after 1 January 2011 for residential and small business purposes will need to be Layer 2, wholesale only and open access". This is to prevent cherry picking. Were the financial conclusions drawn in the business case dependent upon cherry picking being prevented after 1 January 2011? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 246 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Cherry Picking | Is the statement in the business case that <i>NBN Co will not be able to compete effectively with cherry pickers who focus on commercially attractive areas</i> , an admission that the NBN will not be commercially viable unless it operates as a monopoly? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 247 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Is there any intention of the NBN to conduct an advertising campaign beyond the community consultation programs? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 248 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | If so, what is the budget? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 249 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Given that the NBN is a wholesale provider and is forbidden to participate in the retail market, what is the purpose of this advertising? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 250 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Can NBN Co detail the number of community consultations it has held so far during the NBN rollout – and the locations of each consultation session? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 <i>REVISED:</i> 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 251 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | How are the community consultations advertised? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 252 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Please provide a list of the number of residents who attended each community consultation session undertaken by NBN Co? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 253 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | How much does it cost NBN Co to undertake a community consultation session? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 254 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Community consultations and advertising | Does NBN Co have a separate budget to hold community consultations? If so, what is this budget? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 255 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Funding for data centres | Can NBN Co itemise the data centre facilities and related equipment it is purchasing from the company Cisco for \$9.5 million? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 256 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Funding for data centres | What is NBN Co's budget to lease data storage facilities? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 257 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Funding for data centres | Given the length of the NBN project, has NBN Co considered if it would be more cost-effective to purchase data storage facilities rather than to lease them? Would this have an impact upon the rate of return estimated in the business plan? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 258 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Funding for data centres | Given that the NBN Co project is expected to be rolled out over a 9.5 year period, and that the network will be operational for the foreseeable future, why has NBN Co only signed agreements to lease data storage facilities for three and five years respectively? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 259 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Funding for data centres | How many data storage sites around Australia does NBN Co believe it will need when the network is completely rolled out? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 260 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Funding for data centres | Will any of these data storage facilities be located in regional or rural areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 261 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Advertisement for media adviser | NBN Co is currently recruiting for a Media Manager. The job description states that the successful applicant must be able to cope with ambiguity. Can NBN Co please explain why their media staff are required to cope with ambiguity? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 262 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Advertisement for media adviser | What aspects of the NBN roll out are ambiguous in NBN Co's opinion? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 263 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Advertisement for media adviser | The advertisement for a Media Manager currently appearing on recruitment websites has multiple spelling and grammatical errors. Who within NBN Co is in charge of writing such advertisements? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 264 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Pricing | What assessments have NBN Co undertaken as to how projected retail costs will compare with other similar products <i>that are currently in</i> the market? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 265 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Pricing | What assessments have NBN undertaken as to how projected retail cost will compare with other similar products <i>that will be in market</i> , once NBN Co starts offering its products, particularly in relation to wireless products? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 266 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Pricing | Please explain NBN Co's take up projections with respect to its basic product, and | Written | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | explain the assumptions with respect to the price of NBN Co's basic product that underpins those assumptions. Explain any sensitivity analysis that has been undertaken. | (1/03/11) | | |
| 267 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Pricing | NBN Co has stated that its basic offering will not reduce in price in real terms. Please explain more fully the projections that NBN Co has undertaken as to how its basic offering will increase over time. | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 268 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Pricing | Please explain the relationship between projected price increases over time for the basic product, and take up. | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 269 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Take-up | What analysis has been undertaken with respect to take -up for NBN Co's basic broadband services specifically in lower socio-demographic areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 270 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Take-up | What analysis has been undertaken with respect to take-up for NBN Co's basic broadband services in rural and regional Australia? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 271 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | Who has NBN Co chosen to supply its network architecture and related technology product sets? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 272 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | Explain the processes by which this supplier/these suppliers were chosen. | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 273 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | Explain the fibre technology that NBN Co has chosen. | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 274 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | Explain the market testing process that has been undertaken with respect to (a) value for money, (b) innovation and (c) best practice. | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 275 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | Has NBN Co gone to market to test the full range of fibre deployment methods that are available? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 276 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | Has NBN Co gone to market to test deployment methods such as blown fibre, micro ducting and micro trenching? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 277 | NBN Co | Birmingham | NBN Procurement | In the early release sites, is it the case that construction methods are being assessed for Corning product sets only – and not alternative technologies or deployment methodologies? If so, why not? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 278 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Construction model and SMEs | The Government's Statement of Expectations to NBN Co dated 17 December 2010 states that the Government envisages that NBN Co will prepare advice on how SME's can participate in the NBN project. Has the advice referred to in this Statement been prepared? If so, what does it say? What is NBN Co doing to promote participation of SME's? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 279 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Construction model and SMEs | Explain NBN Co's construction model. Is it not the case that NBN Co's construction model is to engage only with large enterprise? How, then, does NBN Co facilitate SME participation? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 280 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Construction model and | How is value for money ensured in the construction model that has been proposed? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | SMEs | | | | |
| 281 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Regarding the announcement on February 17 that the NBN Co has purchased wireless bandwidth from the 2.3 megahertz to 3.5 megahertz spectrum from Austar for \$120 million, are you aware that Optus had arranged to purchase similar spectrum for \$65 million in 2008? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 282 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Why is the spectrum that Optus arranged to buy different from the NBN deal? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 283 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Does the value of spectrum licences decrease as the length of time to the licence expires also decreases? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 284 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Was any consideration given to the Optus deal with Austar when negotiating a fair price for the NBN Co? Was the three years that had lapsed since the Optus deal taken into account? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 285 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Why did the NBN Co not wait until 2015 to obtain the licence free off the Government when Austar's licence expired? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 286 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Why didn't the NBN Co decide to use spectrum from the 700 megahertz spectrum? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 287 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Would this spectrum have delivered faster speeds for people living further away from base stations? Would the capital costs of building base stations have been less as well? Why didn't the NBN Co acquire bandwidth on the 700 megahertz spectrum? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 288 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Does NBN Co agree that the wireless market is dominated by a monopoly player like the wholesale fixed line market is? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 289 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Wireless bandwidth | Does NBN Co believe that it will be able to deliver cheaper prices for wireless broadband than a private company would have? If so, how much more cheaply? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 290 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Alcatel and NBN Co | How many current NBN Co executives, employees or consultants were employed by Alcatel or any of its subsidiaries at any time between 2001 and 2006, when the alleged violations of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act took place? | Written (1/03/11) | 26/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 291 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Alcatel and NBN Co | Were any of those individuals involved in authorizing, executing or recognising revenue from any Alcatel contracts in Costa Rica, Honduras, Taiwan or Malaysia? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 292 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Alcatel and NBN Co | Given Mr Quigley, Mr Beaufret and other NBN Co executives were previously employed by Alcatel, what arrangements did NBN Co directors and management put in place to prevent any conflicts of interest from arising during the process that in 2010 selected Alcatel as the NBN's lead technology contractor? | Written (1/03/11) | 26/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 293 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Alcatel and NBN Co | Was any former Alcatel employee directly involved in recommending or approving this decision? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 294 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Alcatel and NBN Co | What is the dollar value of all existing contracts between Alcatel and its subsidiaries and NBN Co and its subsidiaries as of February 21, 2011? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 295 | NBN Co | Birmingham | Pricing | What steps has the board of directors of NBN Co taken to ensure the company's internal controls and financial governance are robust, and the interests of Australian taxpayers are fully and properly protected? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 296 | NBN Co | Fisher | Queensland flood infrastructure damage | There have been newspaper reports of trenches being dug in Kiama Downs which have not been used. Are you aware of this and why have they not been used? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 297 | NBN Co | Fisher | Queensland flood infrastructure damage | In some cases, cables have been put in underground and then additional cables strung overhead. What is the reason for this duplication? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 298 | NBN Co | Fisher | Queensland flood infrastructure damage | The NBN Co put out a media release dated February 4 stating that after cyclones in Queensland: <i>"It has been established that while falling trees have caused significant damage to many of the power poles on which NBN Co's fibre optic cables were situated, so far it has not been possible to ascertain any damage to the cables themselves. Further tests all the network components, including underground ducts and pits, are ongoing."</i> Since then, have you been able to ascertain whether there was any damage to the NBN's cables? If not, why? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 299 | NBN Co | Fisher | Queensland flood infrastructure damage | Once Ergon has completed the roll-out and passes over responsibility for the network to the NBN Co, will you be liable for falling power polls? What about damaged cables as a result of fallen power polls? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 300 | NBN Co | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | Do you envisage that once you sign a heads of agreement with Telstra and no longer have to rely on partners such as Ergon Energy, more of the NBN will be installed underground using Telstra's infrastructure? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 301 | NBN Co | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | In cyclone and emergency prone areas such as Townsville, would it not have been better to wait until you have access to Telstra's infrastructure rather than using joint partners such as Ergon who you predominantly overhead infrastructure? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 302 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Why has the NBN Co not publicly released figures on the expected ARPU/ profit and loss statement/ cashflow statements / balance sheets included in its corporate plan? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 303 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | The corporate plan notes that construction of the NBN will continue until 2021. Why has the timeline of the roll-out increased from eight years to 11 years? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 304 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Can details of the interest rates utilised in determining the interest costs stated in the Summary Financials at Exhibit 10.3 in the NBN Business Plan be provided? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | What assumptions have been made in terms of future interest rate movements? | | | |
| 305 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | What is the likely financing cost (other than interest rates) in terms of long-term bonds, or other debt instruments, given the relatively higher cost to convert foreign currency borrowings into Australian dollars (\$)?? For example, has the Government made provision for costs such as currency conversion basis swap charges? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 306 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Can NBN Co. provide the Net Present Value (NPV) calculations utilised in determining the NBN Project's financial viability? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 307 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Through the use of a Capital Asset Pricing Model it would appear that even when the lowest beta value is used in calculating a required rate of return on equity funding, the minimum required return on equity of 8% would still be above the IRR of 7.04% stated in the NBN Business Plan. Given the conservative values used under the CAPM, is NBN Co. concerned that the project will not secure an adequate rate of return? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 308 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Has NBN Co. assessed the likely impact of Optus expanding its wireless network and/or the cost of procuring Optus' agreement to transfer its customers and infrastructure to NBN Co. in a similar manner to Telstra? If yes, what would the likely cost of securing the transfer of Optus customers to NBN Co's network? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 309 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | What assumptions have been made in determining the \$56 entry price point for NBN services in relation to the likely EBITDA of the Retail Service Providers? NBN Co. appears to think that the RSP's will be satisfied with a 10-20% EBITDA. This is unlikely given that Optus and Telstra currently earn 25-40%. | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 310 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | The key assumption that increased data usage will deliver increased revenue to NBN Co, and ensure the viability of the business plan, <u>poses a massive question mark</u> . Connectivity Virtual Circuit (CVC) is said to represent up to 30% of total NBN revenue by 2025. Can such an assumption of take-up of increased data usage be justified? What is the basis for such an assumption? Has the assumed increase in data use and the sophistication thereof been determined against a viable benchmark? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 311 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | In its business case, NBN Co estimates that 70 per cent of all homes will be connected to the NBN by 2025. Does this include homes that will not browse the internet and will only rely on a home phone service? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 312 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | A further 16.3 per cent of homes are estimated to be wireless-only. Can you explain the devices that will access wireless services? Does this also include mobile phone services? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 313 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Did the NBN Business case take computer ownership into account when modelling its financial predictions? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 314 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that only 78 per cent of homes currently have a computer. However, the NBN business plan assumes that 86.3 per cent of homes are going to be connected to the internet through the NBN or through wireless by 2025. Can NBN Co outline what research this is based upon, and how quickly the growth is expected to occur? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 315 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | The Business Plan assumes that there will be no wireless-only businesses. Can NBN Co explain the reasons behind this assumption? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 316 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Given the opportunities available for mobile businesses using wireless, how can NBN Co justify assume that no business will be wireless once the NBN is rolled out? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 317 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Does the 12. 4 per cent of premises that are estimated to be either vacant or unconnected include business premises? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 318 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | The business case states that the basic wholesale price for an NBN service offering a 12 mbps connection and a home phone line will be \$24. Will this price be reviewed and changed periodically, or is it set in perpetuity? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 319 | NBN Co | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | What percentage of Telstra infrastructure is fit-for-use? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 320 | NBN Co | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | What analysis has NBN done to make sure the deal is value for money? Can the Senate be provided with access to that analysis? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 321 | NBN Co | Fisher | Telstra Heads of Agreement | Has the NBN Co prepared any contingency plans to put in place in the event that Telstra shareholders vote against separation? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 322 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | What is the estimated cost of the NBN Co signing a deal with Optus to transfer their HFC customers on to the NBN network? Will that be factored into the cost of the NBN as an operational cost? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 323 | NBN Co | Fisher | NBN Co Business Case | Given that the Government has instructed the NBN to prioritise rural and regional areas, will that mean the NBN Co's ability to recoup the operational costs will be reduced, given that Optus's HFC customers are located in high density metropolitan areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 324 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | Can the NBN Co provide an update regarding progress of the rollout at each of the first-release sites in Tasmania and on the mainland? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 325 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | Can the NBN Co please provide the planned programme for the rollout in each first release site, including information regarding whether NBN Co met each milestone by the expected time? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 326 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | How many actual installations in each area have occurred? What is the progress of installations in each area? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 327 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | For those areas where retail services are now available, what is the number of households and businesses that have signed up to an NBN connection plan with an | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | ISP? | | | |
| 328 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | Can the NBN Co detail each current retail service available over the NBN in its first release sites and the cost and data inclusion of each plan? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 329 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | Can the NBN Co detail how many customers in Tasmania have signed up to the highest download speed plans available? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 330 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | Has NBN Co implemented any measures to monitor the speeds provided to the end-user for premises connected to the NBN to ensure that the user is receiving the speeds promised by the Government? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 331 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | What has been the performance of customers purchasing the 100mbp – has it been provided, etc | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 332 | NBN Co | Fisher | Status of NBN Rollout | The second release sites in Tasmania are scheduled to start in early 2011. Does NBN Co now have a date for when the rollout in those sites will commence? What dates are scheduled for the rollout to reach completion in those sites? | Written (1/03/11) | 12/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 333 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | Can you explain the process for selecting contractors to install the NBN in the release sites across Australia? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 334 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | Have contractors been chosen to install the NBN in the second release mainland sites at this stage? If not, when will this occur? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 335 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | It has been reported that NBN Co has divided the country into 16 areas – each to be awarded to a different contractor. Can you please list where these 16 areas are? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 336 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | How does the Department/NBN Co allocate the budget for each release site – will it be split between the 16 areas, or allocated to each site? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 337 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | Were these 16 sites decided when NBN Co selected the five mainland first release sites? And are the contractors who have been awarded the installation in the first release sites on the mainland been awarded additional areas to install? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 338 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | Regarding the Tasmanian first release sites, what were the average budget and the cost for installing the NBN in each house? Did the rollout come within this budget? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 339 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | Is there a contingency budget allocated for each area? Has this been the case in Tasmania? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 340 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | If there was a contingency budget for the rollout in Tasmania, was NBN Co required to use any additional funds? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 341 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation contractors and Budget | What are the contractor's obligations in relation to natural disasters? Who bares the risk – the contractors or the Commonwealth? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 342 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | Whose decision is it to decide where the optic fibre cables are installed? Is it NBN Co's decision or is it the contractors? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 343 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | What level of oversight is NBN Co providing to the installation contractors to ensure that the fibre optic cable is installed correctly and in the most efficient manner? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 344 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | How many metres of underground conduits were laid in the Kiama rollout site? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 345 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | Can NBN Co confirm that underground conduits were laid in Kiama and then not used for the installation of fibre optic cables, which were installed on overhead powerlines instead? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 346 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | How many meters of underground conduits in Kiama have been installed and will not be used? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 347 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | What was the cost of installing the unused underground conduits in Kiama? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 348 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | How much money was wasted by the decision to build the underground conduits and then not install fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 349 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | If this was the mistake of the contractor, who is liable to meet the costs of installing the conduits – BNP Telecommunications or NBN Co? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 350 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | Has this occurred in any other of the first release sites? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 351 | NBN Co | Fisher | Installation in Kiama | Can NBN Co/the Department guarantee that this will not happen in any other of the rollout sites across Australia? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 352 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | What is the current expected date for rollout completion in Townsville? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 353 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | Does NBN Co/the Department take into account weather forecasts and the chance for natural disasters and adverse weather when determining the dates for rolling out the NBN in particular areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 354 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | Is it still NBN Co's assessment that the impact of Cyclone Yasi will not force a revision of the timetable for completion in Townsville? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 355 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | NBN Co reported in the days after the Cyclone (4 Feb) that "falling trees have caused significant damage to many of the power poles on which NBN Co's fibre optic cables were situated." Can you outline the extent of the damage to power | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | poles in Townsville? | | | |
| 356 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | What were the reasons for installing the optical fibre cable on power poles in Townsville – a known cyclone area – and not in underground conduits? Was this decision made by NBN Co or the contractors in Townsville – Ergon Energy? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 357 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | Will NBN Co persist in installing optical fibre on power poles in Townsville and other areas in North Queensland during the rollout – despite the destruction that can be caused by cyclones in this area? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 358 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | Will any power poles in Townsville be required to be replaced? If so, who will bare the cost of replacement – will it be NBN Co or will it be Ergon Energy? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 359 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | NBN Co reported on 4 Feb that “further tests to the network components are ongoing”. Have these tests been complete, and if so, what are the results? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 360 | NBN Co | Fisher | Townsville Rollout and Ergon Contract | According to reports, Ergon Energy contractors were going to be released from installing the NBN to assist with reconstruction work in both Townsville and Brisbane. Has this been the case? If so, how many contractors have been released from installing the NBN in Townsville? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 361 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Despite the Brisbane floods, is NBN Co still planning to start the NBN rollout in North Brisbane and Springfield Lakes in the first half of this year? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 362 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Will the Brisbane contractors be required to install NBN equipment or cables in areas that have been affected by the recent floods? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 363 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Does NBN Co know how many contractors will be required to install the NBN in North Brisbane and Springfield Lakes? Will NBN Co guarantee that the installation will not disrupt the reconstruction efforts of Brisbane? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 364 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Given the Brisbane floods, has NBN Co considered the potential take-up rate of installations to homes that may be preoccupied with flood rebuilding efforts? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 365 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Will the roll-out in Brisbane operate under opt-out provisions similar to those being implemented in Tasmania? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 366 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Has NBN Co factored in any impacts upon revenue and profits to the NBN if Brisbane proceeds with the i3 Asia Pacific network? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 367 | NBN Co | Fisher | Brisbane Rollouts | Does NBN Co believe that there is the potential for similar networks to be installed in other Australian cities, and has NBN Co taken this into consideration when modelling the risks and revenue pressures in its business case? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 368 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor | The NBN business case states that a full deployment rate of almost 6,000 premises will be passed per day during the NBN rollout, and that this will occur in Financial Year 2014. How many release sites will be having the NBN rolled out to them when the deployment rate reaches 6,000? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | Market Issues | | | | |
| 369 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | Does the peak deployment rate of 6,000 premises include both residence and business premises? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 370 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | Does NBN Co believe that 6,000 premises a day is a realistic target? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 371 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | How many workers are required to install the NBN at a single premise – on average? How long on average does it take each installation? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 372 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | Does NBN Co know how many workers will be required to rollout the NBN when it reaches its full deployment rate of 6,000 homes each day? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 373 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | Can NBN Co provide information regarding the average salary offered to contractors who are charged with installing the NBN? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 374 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | It has been reported that wages for engineers and network designers could spike due to the increased demand caused by the NBN. Have wage Sensitivities been modelled into the costings of the rollout? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 375 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | In terms of employee workplace conditions and wages, who will be tasked with negotiating with trade unions, will it be NBN Co, or will it be the private contractors charged with rolling out the NBN in specific areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 376 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers | Has NBN Co modelled any wage rises into its business case financial estimates? | Written | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | | (1/03/11) | | |
| 377 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | The Communications Electrical and Plumbing Union have called for annual pay rises of 5 per cent for contractors engaged in the NBN rollout. Will workers employed on the NBN receive such a pay increase? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 378 | NBN Co | Fisher | Peak numbers of Homes Installed Daily and Labor Market Issues | What are the wage rates that contractors employed to install the NBN in its first release sites currently receive? What is the annual pay increases that these workers receive? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 379 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | Is it still NBN Co's intention to only install fibre to communities with a population that exceeds 1,000 people? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 380 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | If so, can NBN Co provide the Committee with a list of all towns with less than 1,000 people and which will not receive a fibre connection? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 381 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | NBN Co's business case states that fibre will be rolled out to all communities with greater than 500 premises that are passed by the transit backhaul routes. How many communities with less than 500 premises will be passed by the fibre transit backhaul routes, and not connected to fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 382 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | In general, will it cost NBN Co less or more to install the NBN in wireless or satellite communities when compared to fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 383 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | What are the different cost pressures involved in installing fibre as opposed to either wireless or satellite? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 384 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | A spokesman for NBN Co, Andrew Sholl said on February 3 that "the maps upon which people are basing their assumptions (in terms of rollout locations and where fibre will be available) are indicative only. As we undertake more detailed analysis, we'll be able to inform residents of the definitive boundaries." Is this still the case? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 385 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | If NBN Co have not finalised the boundaries for the NBN rollout, and what areas will receive fibre, satellite and cable, how can the NBN model the costs of the rollout with any certainty? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| 386 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | The new Tasmanian state Minister for Infrastructure, Development and Innovation has stated he will lobby NBN Co over the exact location of fibre and wireless, and will demand that more towns are connected to fibre. Has NBN Co started re-negotiating with the Tasmanian government regarding the location of fibre sites? | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 387 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | Does NBN Co know which towns the Tasmanian Minister will be lobbying for in terms of having them connected to fibre? If so, what are they? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 388 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | Can NBN Co outline the negotiations it has held with other state and territory governments concerning rollout sites and which locations will be installed with fibre? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 389 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | When does NBN Co believe that negotiations will be concluded with the States and Territories, and when will a final map be completed showing the locations of fibre, wireless and satellite locations? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 390 | NBN Co | Fisher | Small communities not receiving Fibre | Again, if negotiations have not concluded with State and Territories, and a final map of rollout locations has not been finalised, how can NBN Co model the rollout expenses with any certainty? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 391 | NBN Co | Troeth | Educational and Promotional Campaigns | [Mike Quigley] mentioned educational and promotional campaigns in areas such as Brunswick, and I think you mentioned that you did hold one or more. How many people would have attended? Did the interest build? | EC 128-129 (22/02/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 392 | NBN Co | Xenophon | Caliburn Report | Have you seen the full Greenhill Caliburn report commissioned by the Government into NBN Co's corporate plan? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 393 | NBN Co | Xenophon | Caliburn Report | If not, have you reviewed the seven-page Executive Summary? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 394 | NBN Co | Xenophon | Business Case | In your business plan, you have allowed for 13 percent of the market to stay with wireless. Have you done modelling for a situation where the wireless market is 20 percent, for example? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 395 | NBN Co | Xenophon | Business Case | What is the business outcome for NBN Co under a 20 percent wireless share? | Written (1/03/11) | 20/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 396 | Program 1.2 | Birmingham | National Classification Review – secure transmission | Senator BIRMINGHAM —Is the department working with ACMA in relation to that secure transmission issue? Mr Rizvi —We are monitoring that development process, but we are not involved explicitly in the development of the technology around the secure transmission. Senator BIRMINGHAM —Has ACMA started any trials in that regard, or are they still doing the internal work? Mr Rizvi —I would have to take that on notice, Senator. My understanding is that they were scheduled to start early this year. I will need to check precisely where | EC 96 (22/02/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | they are up to. | | | |
| 397 | Program 1.2 | Birmingham | Spectrum | Is the department aware of The Access Economics report done for the Attorney-General's Department called <i>Radiofrequency spectrum options for Public Safety Agencies, dated 10 September 2010</i> , in which it calls for additional spectrum to be made available for emergency services? Has a decision been made on allocating the 700mhz which will become available as a result of the digital TV switchover? If so, what is this decision? If not, when is a decision expected? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 398 | Program 1.2 | Birmingham | Download usage | What estimates has the Department done on the download of information in Australia? By what rate are downloads increasing? What information does the department have on the use of increased download demand? I.e. for what purpose(s) is download growth occurring? Please provide a breakdown on usage by purpose or category as far as is possible. | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 399 | Program 1.2 | Birmingham | Download usage | What proportion of the growth in downloads in Australia is attributable to gaming, video downloads and home entertainment products? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 400 | Program 1.3 | Abetz | When were the ABC draft QoNS provided to the Minister's Office | Senator ABETZ —On this occasion you do speak on behalf of all of the committee, Chair. That is shared. I observe that answers were due on 3 December 2010 and that 19 answers were provided on 14 February 2011, with the remaining 16 provided on 16 February, which was a number of weeks later. Can I be told when draft answers were supplied to the minister's office? Mr Scott —I believe that in December the ABC sent off answers. I am not quite sure of the timetable, though. Senator ABETZ —In December? Mr Scott —I believe that is right. Senator ABETZ —Can you take on notice, Minister, when the 19 answers to questions on notice that were tabled on 14 February 2011 came to your office and when the remaining 16 answers that were tabled on 16 February 2011 came to your office from the ABC. I want to find out if the tardiness, with respect, is with the ABC or in the minister's office. | EC 80 (22/02/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 401 | Program 1.3 | Ludlam | Progress on audio description trial | Senator LUDLAM —Does anyone from the department or representing the minister or even the minister himself want to provide us with an update? Senator Conroy —, I would have to get some advice on where it is up to. Senator LUDLAM —I am okay with that. Would you like to do that now while I change the subject? Senator Conroy —I am sure I will have some officers back at the table shortly. | EC 88 (22/02/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| 402 | Program 1.3 | Troeth | Rollout of Self-Help upgrades and gap fillers | <p>Senator TROETH—I now move to Queensland. Is it true that regional broadcasters in Queensland have indicated that they will roll out some 24 self-help upgrades and new gap fillers?</p> <p>Senator Conroy—The TV stations you are talking about?</p> <p>Senator TROETH—Yes, TV.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin—I will confirm the figure in a moment, but that sounds around about right. There are a mixture of gap fillers and self-help facilities which will also be rolled out by the broadcasters in Queensland.</p> <p>Senator TROETH—You may need to take this on notice. When you do ascertain that, could you publish a list of those 24 and the communities affected?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin—I think they are actually published in what is called our black spot report, which was tabled in parliament on 9 February. So there is a full list in that report of the expected gap fillers.</p> <p>Senator TROETH—Does that tabling include how many of those 24 have been commissioned to date?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin—It gives an indication, but I think it would be best if we took that question on notice for you.</p> <p>Senator TROETH—Yes. And can you provide an expected time for the commissioning date of each?</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin—Yes. We can certainly do that and take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator TROETH—Can you also add to that table whether those expected dates are guaranteed, pretty certain, untested et cetera? That is, give us a reasonable professional view of the department's expectations.</p> <p>Ms O'Loughlin—We are certainly happy to take that on notice. I would note that we are reliant on the broadcasters for that information. Often you will find that, particularly in an area like Queensland, where there is in normal circumstances difficult topography and various things that can happen on the ground, sometimes those dates can change a little. We need to give the broadcasters that flexibility to enable them to complete those rollouts. But we can certainly take that on notice and give you an indication as best we can.</p> | EC 99 (22/02/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 403 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | <p>How many set top boxes have been sold in Australia?</p> <p>How many of these are standard definition and how High definition?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 404 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | <p>Is the department aware of significant difficulties being experienced by residents in the Regional South Australian switchover area?</p> <p>Has the Department investigated these problems?</p> <p>What does the department believe is the cause of these problems?</p> <p>What actions does the department intend taking?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | What advice has the department provided to people in the switchover area? | | | |
| 405 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Is the department aware of widespread problems with reception on the Lower Yorke Peninsula – which is in the Adelaide switchover zone – since the switchover in regional SA. What does the department believe is the cause of these problems in the non-switchover area? What has it done to rectify these problems? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 406 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Are Government contracted installers SkyBridge and Techlife installing masthead amplifiers on aerials in these areas? Does the department have advice suggesting such amplifiers are required in these areas? What recourse do customers have if they are unhappy with the quality of their reception? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 407 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Is the Department aware of a fault in a batch of set-top boxes used by its contracted installers? Have all set-top boxes installed from this batch been replaced? Was any cost of the replacement borne by the Government? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 408 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | How many residents in the South Australian regional switchover area have lodged complaints with DigitalReady? How many have enquired about receiving a VAST satellite subsidy grant? How many grants have been approved in the SA regional switchover area? How many applications or enquiries have been rejected? | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 409 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | What advice does the DigitalReady hotline give to residents who are unhappy with their digital reception? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 410 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | From the answer to question 109 from the October 2010 Senate Estimates hearings, I understand DBCDE believes the Minister on 30 March wrote to 362 analog self-help licensees that were not at that stage going to have their facilities upgraded to digital by the broadcasters. Of these the answer said some 265 were in remote areas. Is it correct that many licensees have more than one self-help facility and hence if we are talking about actual self-help sites the numbers are more likely to be in the order of around 460 in remote areas? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 411 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Did the Department advise the Minister that the VAST satellite platform which was required to be the source of any commercial TV channels for digital self-help facilities in remote areas was not compatible with terrestrial retransmission? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 412 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | In reference to QON 114 from the October 2010 Estimates, the department stated that in developing the subsidy to assist homes in existing self-help areas to convert | Written (1/03/11) | 28/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | to VAST that the only input from affected viewers came from the Consumer Expert Group of the Switchover Taskforce. Could the Department table any discussion document relating to the development of the subsidy scheme or show any CEG member's written input regarding the scheme before it was announced in April last year and manifest in formal RFT documents on the official Government tenders web site in May last year? | | | |
| 413 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Is the Department aware that the Minister late last year wrote to a number of entities indicating that essential equipment to enable terrestrial retransmission of commercial TV channels on the new satellite would not be available until January this year? How did the Department expect the 265 self-help licensees involving around 460 self-help facilities to approach examination of the digital terrestrial self-help option during the period 30 March 2010 to end January this year? Does the Department acknowledge that for entities which the Minister in recent letters has described as "perhaps lacking in technical expertise" might have found some assistance from the Department highly useful in examining the digital terrestrial self-help option? | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 414 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Is it true that on or about December last year the Department flagged that remote area self-help licensees would have to tell the Department whether they were going to set up digital self-help facilities – IE not take up the VAST DTH option – by January 31 2011? | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 415 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Is the Department aware that ACMA has refused to grant the only 3 requests local councils in remote areas of Queensland have so far made for the spectrum required to set up a remote area self-help facility? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 416 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Is it true that if councils indicate they intend to set up a digital terrestrial self-help facility the Department has told them that the location will be removed from being eligible for the VAST satellite subsidy and homes within those communities will not be eligible if they cannot eventually receive all channels from any new self-help facility? | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 417 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Have the 18 Remote Indigenous Communities included in the regional and remote Queensland satellite subsidy scheme been asked to make a decision one way or another concerning DTH VAST or digital terrestrial? What was the time frame given for these communities to make this decision? If so how does that fit into consideration of the Stevens Report into Indigenous Broadcasting? If not why are various self-help communities being treated differently? | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 418 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | The official timescales for the so called satellite subsidy scheme provided by the Taskforce to its various stakeholder Working Groups say that for the remote areas | Written (1/03/11) | 25/05/11 | 23/06/11 |

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| | | | | <p>of Queensland (not regional areas) the start date for 'opt in' into the satellite subsidy scheme for homes is 20 April 2011.</p> <p>However the same deadlines show that applications for the subsidy close in remote areas of Queensland on 20 January 2012. That's 11 months away.</p> <p>Why therefore is DBCDE requiring remote area Queensland councils to determine once and for all on behalf of their ratepayers whether they will set up a digital self-help facility by the end of February?</p> <p>Is this change in deadlines designed to make it as difficult as possible for local Councils in remote areas of Queensland to set up a digital self-help facility?</p> | | | |
| 419 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | <p>Would it be a fair presumption to reach that the Department is not in favour of digital terrestrial self-help facilities being established?</p> <p>If so how did the Department reach this view despite around 460 remote area communities choosing terrestrial retransmission over DTH reception in the pre-existing Aurora satellite environment over the past 13 years and without expressly asking such licensees for their views on VAST and the development of the satellite subsidy scheme?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 14/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 420 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | <p>Does the Taskforce web site state that the only model of VAST set top box (STB) available costs \$280?</p> <p>Is the department aware that a roughly equivalent single HD tuner digital terrestrial STB costs around \$200 less?</p> <p>Is it correct that if more wall sockets are required that even during the subsidy scheme home visit something like an extra \$135 is required per socket?</p> <p>Is it correct that if a home has a total of 2 TV sets and 2 recorder devices that all 4 such devices will need their own VAST STB to maintain pre-existing analog terrestrial TV domain viewing options?</p> <p>Is it correct that an average home wishing to convert 2 TV sets and 2 recorders, that over and above the subsidy they will have to completely pay the scheme co-payment; for 3 extra VAST STBs; and say 3 extra wall sockets?</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 421 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | <p>Is it true that according to the Departments Qld SSS RFT documents that the current Normanton analog self-help facility covers 552 households and that the SSS subsidy to each of those households would be \$700?</p> <p>Is it also true that all homes in Normanton would have to make a co payment of between \$200 and \$350 for the conversion of just one TV set to VAST and the Department would pay the successful installer contractor a Management Fee of \$70 per home?</p> <p>On the basis of those figures it will cost the Government and home viewers in Normanton around \$600,000 to convert just one TV set to VAST and connect it to one wall socket in one room.</p> | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 <i>REVISED:</i> 25/05/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | In late December the Minister wrote to a number of entities suggesting that setting up a digital terrestrial facility to retransmit all VAST channels would cost between \$110,000 and \$270,000. Is it correct that for no saving to Government, current policies preclude using SSS pooling to set up a facility in Normanton that would be at least \$300,000 cheaper for the town's residents? | | | |
| 422 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Could the Department reveal its own cost benefit breakeven number for communities fully converting all their pre-existing analog free to air TV reception facilities to VAST compared with setting up a digital terrestrial self-help facility? Has it done such work? If not how can it advocate so strongly for one conversion option – DTH VAST over another – self-help digital terrestrial? | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 423 | Program 1.3 | Birmingham | Digital TV Switchover | Can the Department provide any cost benefit studies and detailed modeling options that were conducted for: The new VAST free-to-air TV satellite platform vis a vis a greater digital terrestrial rollout; The particular model of VAST vis a vis what is understood to be at least 2 other options put forward by other industry players; Why Optus was chosen as the delivery platform for VAST and UEC was chosen as the exclusive supplier of VAST set top boxes; The development of the current HAS welfare assistance and SSS self-help community assistance schemes. | Written (1/03/11) | 09/05/11 | 12/05/11 |
| 424 | Corporate and Business | Birmingham | Cost Benefit Studies – BCDE Departmental policy options | What cost benefit studies has the Department conducted and released on any policy option falling within its responsibility over the past 2 years? | Written (1/03/11) | 23/05/11 | 23/06/11 |
| 425 | Corporate and Business | Fisher | Software Programs | Senator FISHER —I want to ask a quick question about the software program, Mr Harris. On page 155 of the financial statements ending 30 June 2010, note 6(d), the table refers to software programs and states that the department is working on that account, if you like, for an increase in intangibles of \$5.5 million or so. What are the software programs—are they totally internal to the department? Senator Conroy —Mr Harris will confirm that in a moment. Senator FISHER —What are they? Mr Harris —It will take us a few minutes to work out what those numbers are. The department did upgrade its IT systems internally last year in that particular period. But my colleague advises me that that is unlikely to have been of the order of \$5 million—the figure that you have read out. We can certainly update you on that. I would point out that the department does quite a lot of—if you have ever used our website you will know that we have a highly interactive website available for | EC 59 (22/02/11) | 06/04/11 | 12/05/11 |

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| | | | | <p>people which enables you to track programs around the country. That alone will be a pretty significant software investment. My suspicion is that if it is not the upgrading of the department's systems, effectively the Word systems in the depart—and I think we had about a seven-year period without investing in that area at all, so we had to do it last year or risk getting completely out of touch—it is probably a combination of things. I can get them listed for you.</p> | | | |