

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**

**Communications Portfolio**

**NBN Co Limited**

**Question No: 222**

**Program No. NBN Co**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Hospitality and Entertainment**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

- a. What is the Department/Agency's hospitality spend for all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- b. What is the Department/Agency's entertainment spend from 7 September 2013 to date? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- c. What hospitality spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- d. What entertainment spend is the Department/Agency's planning on spending? Detail date, location, purpose and cost of all events including any catering and drinks costs.
- e. Is the Department/Agency planning on reducing any of its spending on these items? If so, how will reductions be achieved and what are the estimated savings over each year of the forward estimates?

**Answer:**

- a. Hospitality expenses are included as part of the entertainment expenses. The value of expenditure for the period of 1 July 2013 to 30 November 2013 is \$28,621.
- b. The actual expenditure for the period from 7 September 2013 to 30 November 2013 is \$22,106. Entertainment includes events/functions where people are formally invited and food, drinks and possible entertainment are provided. To provide a detailed breakdown of this figure would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- c. Hospitality planned expenses are included as part of the entertainment planned expenditure, please see answer (d) below. To provide a detailed breakdown of this figure would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- d. Anticipated entertainment expenditure based on the NBN Co budget (dated April 2013) for the period of 1 December 2013 to 30 June 2014 is \$114,196. To provide a detailed breakdown of this figure would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- e. NBN Co always looks for ways to minimise its hospitality and entertainment expenditure. The company has established policies and procedures to ensure only necessary and approved expenditure is incurred. NBN Co currently considers its expenditure to be reasonable.