

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications**

**Question No: 47**

**Program No. 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: In Writing**

**Topic: Cost-benefit analysis**

**Senator Senator Urquhart asked:**

Has the Department prepared an estimate of the cost of undertaking the independent cost-benefit analysis and regulation review of the NBN? If so, what is the estimate? Where will the resources for the review come from? Apart from any panel appointed to undertake the review, will external advisers be engaged to assist them with that review? How will these advisers be selected?

**Answer:**

The Department is scoping the work involved in conjunction with the independent panel who were appointed on 12 December 2013. As this scoping is underway there is no funding estimate of the costs. The Department will fund the costs involved from within existing resources.

External advisers may be required given the technical and specialised nature of some of the tasks. Any external advisors will be selected in accordance with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.