



Information Circular No: **2011/18** Date: 19 April 2011

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TO: SENATORS, MEMBERS AND OTHER BUILDING OCCUPANTS

### **Current energy saving projects for Parliament House**

1 The purpose of this circular is to advise building occupants about two projects to reduce the demand for mains electric power.

#### **Underground Car Parks—replacement lighting**

2 This project commenced in January 2011 and has had three objectives:

- replace deteriorating and unsafe light fittings;
- improve lighting in the car parks; and
- by using more efficient lighting, reduce energy consumption by 30-40%.

3 The project is well advanced, and we thank all car park users for their cooperation. However, the next stage of this project will require some “power isolations”, and as a result, we will need to close two car parks, as follows:

- (a) the House of Representatives car parks will be closed from 10pm on Friday 29 April 2011, and reopen at 8am on Saturday 30 April 2011; and
- (b) Senate car parks will be closed from 8pm on Saturday 30 April 2011, and reopen at 6am on Sunday 1 May 2011.

4 Signs and barricades will be used to identify affected areas. Alternative parking is available in the Public car park.

5 This project is progressing well, and is due to be complete by the end of May. Thank you to all building occupants for your patience during the installation process.

6 For information about the car park lighting upgrade, please contact the DPS Project Managers, Steven Kopievsky on 6277 5031 or Kevin Geary on 6277 8345.

#### **Installation of solar panels**

7 Another initiative that will be commencing in mid-April 2011 is a project to pilot the use of solar-electric panels. This pilot is being undertaken to better understand how we can integrate alternative sources of power into the way electrical energy is provided at Parliament House.

8 Peak electricity demand for Parliament House occurs on summer afternoons, and solar power is likely to have a useful role in meeting this peak demand.

9 A small set of solar panels is to be installed on the roof of the outer Senate office wing building. A crane will be used to lift panels into place on the Senate wing roof between Thursday 28 April 2011 and Tuesday 10 May 2011. The crane will also be required around Friday 10 June, once the installation work is finished.

10 During this installation period, building occupants should exercise caution near the work area.

11 There will be a separate set of solar-electric panels installed on the Gardeners buildings, as a further component of the pilot installation. We will also install solar hot water panels on these buildings to provide a local source of hot water, and further reduce our demand on external energy sources.

12 For information about the works on the pilot solar panel project, please contact the DPS Project Managers Matt Malone on 6277 5290 or David Rayner on 6277 5157.

13 Inquiries from the media are to be directed to the Secretary of DPS, Alan Thompson on 6277 7100.

Alan Thompson  
Secretary