

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

**Question: SBT 1751-1753**

**Topic: Electricity (ABS)**

**Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012**

**Senator MCKENZIE asked:**

1751. For the financial year 2011-2012, how many kilowatt hour of electricity did the department/ agency consume?
- What was the total cost?
  - What does this cost work out to per employee?
1752. What increases in electricity costs has the Department/ agency experienced since the introduction of the carbon tax?
- How has this changed the Department/ agency's spending pattern?
  - What programs or services have been cut to meet the increased costs?
1753. What measures is the Department/ agency taking to reduce its electricity expenditure?
- When did these commence?
  - What impact have they had?

**Answer:**

1751. 4,533,473 Kwh
- \$1,073,925.22
  - \$295.77
1752. Nil increase in electricity costs.
- No spending pattern changes.
  - Nil program cuts.
1753. The ABS has sought to minimise its electricity cost by;
- Implementing green IT initiatives like Wake-on-LAN to allow software updates whilst automatically shutting down computers across the ABS saving energy;
  - Installing motion sensors in all ABS House tenanted areas and energy efficient LED within certain areas of ABS House to reduce energy consumption;
  - Procuring 10% green energy as part of the whole of government energy contract for ABS House and 10% green energy for the Victorian office;

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- Programming shorter automatic shutdown periods on most ABS printers together with duplex printing as default;
  - Implementation of a knowledge framework, incorporating digital recordkeeping rather than paper records and automatic recordkeeping facilities for ABS workgroup databases; and
  - Utilising computer assisted interviewing to replace paper forms.
- a. The above initiatives commenced in 2010.
- b. Reduced electricity costs and environmental footprint.