

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates**

**18 October 2012**

**Question: SBT 1757-1759**

**Topic: Electricity (ATO)**

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

**Senator MCKENZIE asked:**

1757. 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?
1758. 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?
1759. What measures is the Department/ agency taking to reduce its electricity expenditure?
- When did these commence?
  - What impact have they had?

**Answer:**

The ATO's 2011-12 usage data provided below is awaiting validation by the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency as part of the annual Online System for Comprehensive Activity Reporting (OSCAR).

1757. In 2011-12, the ATO consumed 48,763,902 kWh of electricity:
- 2011-12 total cost was \$7,774,508
  - the average cost per employee was \$314.25.
1758. In 2012-13 to 30 September 2012, the ATO has had an increase in electricity costs totalling \$176,272.15. Note that this cost comprises only charges which are recorded on the electricity bill.
- a & b. The ATO's spending patterns have not changed. There have been no cuts to programs or services. The ATO continues to monitor and reduce discretionary supplier expenditure wherever possible.
1759. a & b. The ATO continues to review vacant space in its sites and where possible, is reducing leaseholds or subleasing available space.

In addition to this, as outlined in the *Commissioner of Taxation Annual report 2011-12*, during 2011-12 the ATO:

- upgraded its primary mainframe, which now uses 30% less power
- reduced its computer allocation from 1.5 to 1.1 computers per employee
- reduced the total number of printers and copiers from 4,068 to 2,887.

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

In 2012-13 the ATO is:

- moving from a power usage effectiveness 1.8 rated data centre to a 1.3 rated data centre
- implementing a new Windows 7 power management policy, which is expected to reduce power consumption by 50 kWh per person per year.