

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 150

**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates

**Outcome:** Corporate

**Programme:** Corporate Strategies Division

**Topic:** Portfolio Wide – Electricity Purchasing

**Hansard Page:** N/A

**Question Date:** 27 November 2013

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

- a) What are the details of the department/agency electricity purchasing agreement?
- b) What are the department/agency electricity costs from 7 September 2013 to date?

**Answer:**

a)

The Department of the Environment (the department) has entered into a Whole of Australian Government (WoAG) contract between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Department of Defence, and ERM Power Limited for its Canberra sites. This agreement is for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2015 and covers the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and New South Wales (NSW).

Electricity for the department's office in Tasmania is provided by the landlord, AAD Nominees Pty Ltd, with two current leases. One commenced on 1 July 2004 and ends 30 June 2024 and the second commenced 1 July 2007 and ends 30 June 2017.

The department has two tenancies in the Northern Territory. The tenancy at Darwin purchases its electricity from the sub-lessor, Darwin International Airport. The current sub-lease commenced on 24 July 2002 and ends on 23 July 2017. The field station at Jabiru has its electricity supplied by Energy Resources Australia, Ranger Mine. There is no current formal agreement in place.

The Director of National Parks has entered into the WoAG (ACT and NSW) contract for the same period for the Australian National Botanic Gardens. The Director of National Parks has no other agreements in place.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust has entered into the WoAG (ACT and NSW) contract for the same period for its large sites. All smaller sites are on normal commercial business plans with Energy Australia and have no specific end dates.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has no current formal agreement in place.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority's has no current formal agreement in place.

The National Water Commission (the Commission) has not entered into a purchasing agreement with an electricity provider. Due to the Commission's small size and low electricity usage, the Commission is unable to participate in the WoAG electrical power contract arrangement. Electricity is currently purchased from ActewAGL on a monthly usage basis.

The Bureau of Meteorology has electricity purchasing agreements for the following sites:

- 700 Collins Street, Docklands, Victoria - commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- Glenitta Avenue, Broadmeadows, Victoria - commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- 1010 Latrobe Street, Docklands, Victoria - commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- 16 Truck City Drive, Campbellfield, Victoria – commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- Airport Drive, Mildura South, Victoria – commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- 2/56 Barrie Road, Tullamarine, Victoria – commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- Aerodrome Road, Bairnsdale, Victoria – commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- South Road, Yarrawonga, Victoria – commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- Sayers Road, Laverton, Victoria - commence 1 January 2013, expires 31 December 2014;
- South Australia Regional Office, Kent Town – commence 1 July 2011, expires 30 June 2014;
- New South Wales Regional Office, Sydney – commence 1 July 2011, expires 30 June 2014;
- Eucla Meteorological Office – commence 1 June 2011, expires 31 May 2016.

All other sites are on standard connection rates.

The Clean Energy Regulator's electricity is supplied to the building under a WoAG (ACT) contract between ERM power Retail Pty Ltd and the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the Department of Defence (Electricity Contract). The electricity purchased is 100 per cent green power.

The Climate Change Authority has a 36 month contract in place with Momentum Energy expiring in 2015. The Authority purchases 100 per cent green power.

b)

The table below details electricity costs of the department/agencies for the billing periods that fell within the period of 7 September to the end of October 2013. These amounts may not align fully with the period 7 September to 31 October.

<b>Department/Agency</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Department of the Environment *	\$89,469
Director National Parks	\$41,606
Sydney Harbour Federation Trust	\$111,981
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority	\$72,347
Murray-Darling Basin Authority	\$17,046
National Water Commission	\$7,507
Bureau of Meteorology	\$671,329
Clean Energy Regulator	\$42,090
Climate Change Authority	\$1,990

\* These figures do not include electricity generated by the department in the Antarctic Territories.