

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0194_14

Senator Mason asked on 5 June 2013, Hansard page 9

Refers to previous DEEWR Question No. EW0692_13.

Question

Carbon tax on electricity prices for the department

Senator MASON: Please provide the committee with updated figures for the effect of the carbon tax on the department's electricity costs since September 2012. I understand that may need to be taken on notice, but if you could provide a written response incorporating data from as many sites as possible, that would be appreciated. I add, Mr Manthorpe, that the format of the answer to the previous question on notice was very helpful, so if that same format could be adopted for this one, it would be appreciated. Mr Manthorpe: I might be able to obviate the need for us to take it on notice by providing you with a couple of figures. One is that, for those three locations—Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney—for the financial year to March this year, the carbon cost component is \$84,921. Ms Paul: It is not just from September, then. You were asking for an update for the whole financial year up until now—or up until March. Mr Manthorpe: If you wanted the data just from September, I would need to take that on notice. Senator MASON: If you could do it from September, that would be good. Mr Manthorpe: I will take that on notice. Senator MASON: Then we can work out the percentages—the percentage cost. Mr Manthorpe: They are approximately the same—a tick over 10 per cent against a reducing electricity bill.

Answer

Electricity accounts received by the Department for the Department's larger sites in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, which cover approximately 75 per cent of the Department's total energy use, include separately itemised carbon price charges.

A summation of all invoices for DEEWR occupied buildings follows, where the carbon cost component was disaggregated for the period 1 October 2012 to 31 May 2013. If non-DEEWR occupied buildings were included, DEEWR estimates the carbon cost component would be in the order of \$85,000.

Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney electricity invoices for the period 1 October 2012 to 31 May 2013

Location	Total kWh used	Total cost	Carbon cost component
Canberra	2,445,224	\$477,327.14	\$52,987.59
Melbourne	201,656	\$36,176.69	\$4,319.23
Sydney	483,304	\$112,878.48	\$10,445.56
TOTAL	3,130,184	\$626,382.31	\$67,752.38

For the Department's smaller state and regional sites, retailers supplying electricity are unable to specify the proportion of costs the Department is charged that can be directly attributed to the carbon price.