

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 1

Corporate

Question No. 156

Senator McKenzie asked the following question at the hearing on 16 October 2012:

Electricity Cost

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

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) 6,993,559.0 kWh used in FY 2011-2012.

Cost for electricity \$960,628.04 inc GST

- b) Based on an average staffing level of 1,482 FTE data for OSCAR (OSCAR is the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency's online reporting tool for energy usage) was \$658.9 per person per annum incl GST.

- c)

Comparison		Cost		\$/kWh	
Energy (kWh)		Cost		\$/kWh	
FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 11-12	FY 12-13
807,413.70	823,174.08	\$99,226.57	\$133,372.91	0.123	0.162

Note that the energy usage is very similar and therefore reflects the change in ACT site electricity costs. Since the majority of the Department's large energy consumers are in the ACT this is likely to be reflective of the whole portfolio. Energy usage over the 11/12 &

12/13 financial years are very similar but the costs for 12/13 are higher (due to the carbon tax).

d) No programs have been cut as a result of increased electricity cost increases.

e) The department's commitment to energy efficiency began in 2004 during negotiations for planned new buildings at Symonston and Barton. The department occupied a 4,720 square metre purpose-built building in Symonston in 2008 that was designed to a 4.5 star National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) rating for the base building and fit-out. A new 20,000 square metre building at 3-5 National Circuit, Barton was completed in April 2009 and was the world first negotiated commercial green lease between Government and Private Sector. The Department and the building owner were committed to achieving an environmentally efficient building and maintaining that efficiency throughout the life of the premises. The energy efficiency of the fitout was achieved, in part, by extensive use of glass to take advantage of natural light, a sensor lighting system that is activated when areas are occupied, reducing paper usage and energy by access controlled printers and staff awareness of energy initiatives. 3-5 National Circuit, Barton achieved a 4.5 NABERS rating for base building and fitout in its first 12 months and maintains that rating and better. This energy efficient design philosophy was extended to the department's new fitout at 4 National Circuit that replaces leases at older energy inefficient buildings.

In addition, the Department has developed an Environmental Management System (EMS) that identifies ways to improve the environmental performance of the buildings that the Department occupies. The Department's Green Group provides input to this system and it is currently being reviewed and is close to certification. The Department continues to investigate ways of further improving its energy efficiency across the whole of the Department's property portfolio and encourages building owners to improve energy performance.