ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO

2012-13 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome   **Question No:** 479

Topic: Electricity Purchasing

Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

What measures is the Department taking to reduce its electricity expenditure? When did these commence? What impact have they had?

Answer:

The Department has been making a conscious effort to reduce electricity expenditure since cyclical refurbishment works commenced in the 2009-10 financial year.

Measures include:

- Incorporating Green IT initiatives and suitable performance reporting into the FaHCSIA Sustainability Plan in line with the Australian Government ICT Sustainability Plan 2010-2015.
- Sensor lighting installed in all office areas and meeting rooms. The lights turn off automatically if no movement is detected after 15 minutes.
- Appliances are generally 6-star energy rated.
- Power Factor Correction units were installed at Tuggeranong Office Park, resulting in more efficient energy use.
- Zip HydroTap 4in1 boiling/chilled hot and cold water units are installed in kitchens. These are energy efficient and have a 6-star water rating.
- Virtualisation of servers has resulted in a large reduction in the number of physical servers, representing a significant saving on power consumption and the power required to cool the data centre.
- The introduction of "Sleep on LAN" software which enables the automatic shutdown of PCs overnight. Currently, 99.5 per cent of all workstations Australia-wide are shut down every night.
- Replacing a large number of printers with a smaller number of multi-function devices. These devices have better power management than the older models they replaced.
- Expanding video conferencing facilities from 58 to 96 end-points so that more staff can use these facilities rather than travel.
- Upgrading all PCs and Notebooks to Windows 7 which feature enhanced power management.