

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

Question No: 133
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: ICT Sustainability Plan and recycled paper
Hansard Page: 18
Question Date: 19 September 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Xenophon asked:

Senator XENOPHON: But it seems now that that has been abandoned. Even that encouragement for using recycled paper has been abandoned. I won't use a pejorative term like 'abandoned'. It is no longer in place.

Ms Wiley-Smith: While the ICT plan is no longer in place, there is certainly an encouragement to recycle through the national waste policy.

Senator XENOPHON: But it is not as clear and unambiguous as the previous policy, is it not?

Ms Wiley-Smith: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

1. The National Waste Policy is a coherent policy that sets Australia's waste management and resource recovery direction to 2020.
2. The ICT Sustainability Plan 2010-15, which has now lapsed and was a guidance document only, encouraged, but did not mandate the use of Australian recycled paper.
3. The Digital Transition Policy requires from 2011 that Commonwealth Government departments and agencies move record-keeping activities to digital formats.
 - a. All agencies are expected to comply with the policy by December 2015.
4. The Finance Department's Commonwealth Procurement rules ensure environmental sustainability is part of the considerations in achieving the cost-effective use of resources in procurement decisions.