

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

Question No: 134
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: Recycled Paper Policy - Trends in Government Departments
Hansard Page: 18
Question Date: 19 October 2015
Question Type: Spoken

Senator Xenophon asked:

Senator XENOPHON: Minister, could you please take notice, therefore, the trends in the use of recycled paper amongst government departments in the lead up to the ICT policy plan of 2010 to 2015 and what the trends have been since that time. Because if you say that it is a continuing trend, I would be interested to find out. I take you on your word.

Senator Birmingham: Because I am obliging, I am happy to take it on notice and see what we can do. Given that it is not being mandated or reported against, it may not be an easy thing to bring together.

Answer:

The Department has not undertaken a trend analysis on the use of recycled paper across the Commonwealth. However, data obtained from ANAO audit reports in 2010, and from the Department of Finance in 2015, indicate a decline in the use of office copy paper over that period.

ANAO audit report no 25 2008-09, *Green Office procurement and sustainable office management*, reported that 'surveyed agencies reporting an aggregate use of over 6500 tonnes per year'.

Department of Finance data estimates Australian Government copy paper volume for financial year 2014-15 at 4000 tonnes.