

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ALL

Output Group: ALL

DEST Question No. E780_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

Monitoring Use of Water in Departments and Agencies

1. Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
2. Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
3. What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
4. For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

Answer:

Monitoring Use of Water in Departments and Agencies

DEST has provided the following response:

1. No
2. Water usage is monitored in the department's Questacon building in Canberra. The balance of the department's office space in Australia is leased and DEST does not monitor water usage in those buildings as building owners are responsible for connection, supply and payment.
3. 8,540 kilolitres was used at the Questacon building in Canberra over 2006-07. The balance of the department's office space in Australia is leased and DEST does not monitor water usage in those buildings as building owners are responsible for connection, supply and payment.
4. Yes. Dual Flush systems are fitted to all toilets at the Questacon building in Canberra. The balance of the department's office space in Australia is leased. In those buildings the owners install and control the building systems and infrastructure which generally reflect the age of the building. DEST proactively encourages building owners to implement water saving and other conservation technologies such as dual flush toilets and waterless urinals.

ARC has provided the following response:

1. Under Section 516A of the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) the Australian Research Council (ARC) is required to include in its Annual Report a report on ecologically sustainable development and environmental

matters. The ARC complies with this requirement. Neither the EPBC Act nor the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports stipulate reporting on the quantity of water used and saved.

2. No.
3. The ARC is unable to obtain figures on its water usage. The ARC's water usage costs for its premises at 8 Brindabella Circuit, Brindabella Business Park, Canberra Airport, are included in the Lease Agreement between the ARC and the Capital Airport Group (CAG). The building has multiple tenants and CAG does not monitor water usage by individual tenants. 8 Brindabella Circuit has a 5-Green Star Rating from the Green Business Council of Australia and the building features a number of water conservation measures, including: recycled groundwater for toilet flushing; dual flush toilets; infrared operated taps; waterless urinals; and bore water for irrigation.
4. The ARC premises at 8 Brindabella Circuit is a new building first occupied by the ARC in September 2005. Dual flush toilets were installed during the construction process.

ANSTO has provided the following response:

1. No.
2. Yes.
3. In 2006, the usage was approximately 230,000 kilolitres.
4. Yes.

CSIRO has provided the following response:

1. CSIRO reports water usage annually in its Annual Report.
2. CSIRO does monitor its water usage.
3. In 2006, the usage was approximately 842,058 kilolitres.
4. CSIRO has dual flush toilet systems in many of its buildings but not all. CSIRO is installing waterless urinals in new building projects and is evaluating the installation of waterless urinals in existing toilets.

AIATSIS has provided the following response:

1. There is no requirement to report quantity of water used in the Annual Report.
2. No
3. Our supply comes via the National Museum of Australia who hold the only meter on the Peninsula. In 2006, the estimated usage was 3,677 kilolitres.
4. We have dual flush on all our toilets.

AIMS has provided the following response:

1. No
2. Yes, recorded monthly.

3. In 2006, the usage was approximately 39,349 kilolitres.
4. Yes, all toilets were upgraded to dual flush type over the last five years, now complete.