

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0534_13

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Electricity costs

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

Answer

In 2011-2012 the department consumed 10,635,473 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity. The total cost was \$1,951,531 or \$372 per employee.

The department did not experience an increase in electricity costs following the introduction of the carbon tax. For the July-September 2011 quarter, the department's total electricity charges were \$614,707.45. In the July-September 2012 quarter, the department's total electricity charges were \$473,826.86.

The department and its predecessor agencies have worked to reduce electricity usage and accordingly, expenditure, since the establishment of Commonwealth energy efficiency targets under the *Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) Policy* in 2006. The measures taken have included improving the energy efficiency of our leased tenancies, improving the energy efficiency of our ICT infrastructure, and educating staff on measures which encourage reduction in energy usage. The department has seen a reduction in energy usage, intensity and costs over the last three financial years. The table below outlines energy usage and expenditure for the last three financial years.

Year	Total energy used (kWh)	Energy intensity (MJ/person/annum)	Total cost (\$)
2009-2010	15,489,622	9,618	2,492,673
2010-2011	12,383,849 (-20%)	8,180 (-15%)	2,182,450 (-12%)
2011-2012	10,635,473 (-14%)	7,303 (-11%)	1,951,531 (-11%)