

# **Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Budget Estimates Hearing—February**

## **Answers to Questions on Notice**

### **Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Solar panel trial**

Question: **24**

Written **Senator Humphries**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 15 April 2011**

The Canberra Times published on 17 January 2011 that the DPS would be installing solar panels on the roofs of some buildings at Parliament House.

1. What is the cost of the installation of these panels?
2. Is the DPS applying or planning on applying for rebates either from the Federal or ACT Governments?
3. If so, what programs and how much?
4. When does DPS expect these panels to be fully installed?

#### **Answer**

1 The construction cost for installation and integration of the trial solar panels into the Parliament House energy systems is estimated to be several hundred thousand dollars. Actual cost details are subject to tender evaluation and negotiation.

2 No, DPS is not applying, and does not plan to apply, for rebates either from the Federal or ACT governments. These rebates are only available to individuals and companies, not Commonwealth Agencies. However, DPS may decide to assign the right to create Small-scale Technology Certificates (formerly known as Renewable Energy Certificates) to the supplier who can sell these and provide a discount to the installation price. Small-scale Technology Certificates are described as a market mechanism, not a rebate.

3 The Small-scale Technology Certificates are estimated to be worth approximately \$35,000.

4 The trial solar panels should be fully installed by June 2011.