

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of Finance and Deregulation

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Electricity costs and carbon tax

Senator: McKenzie

Question reference number: F64

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

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

Answer:

- a) 6,888,355 kilowatt hours at a total cost of \$760,933.
- b) \$453.
- c) The carbon price has added approximately two cents per kilowatt hour to electricity costs.
- d) Each year, the Department's appropriations are adjusted for indexation. Electricity costs have been accommodated as part of managing the Department's budget this financial year.
- e) The Department continues to implement measures to ensure its efficient use of electricity. Automated lighting controls switch off non-essential lighting outside of operational hours. The Department conducts environmental management awareness activities designed to encourage energy-saving staff behaviours.
During 2008-09, the Department entered into voluntary Green Improvement Agreements for two of its major tenancies (Treasury Building and the John Gorton Building). The Green Improvement Agreements oblige the tenants and landlord of buildings to work together in order to improve energy efficiency.

Changes to ICT systems during 2010–11, including reductions in the number of printers and desktop devices, has helped improve the Department’s environmental sustainability. More information about the Department’s energy use is contained in the Department’s 2011-12 annual report.

(Note: The above figures exclude the electricity consumption and costs associated with Senators and Members’ electorate offices and visiting offices in Commonwealth Parliament Offices.)

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Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission

Outcome/Program: General

Topic: Electricity costs and carbon tax

Senator: McKenzie

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Answer:

- a) 2,740,872 kwh at a total cost of \$685,000.
- b) \$680.
- c) Nil.
- d) N/A.
- e) The AEC did not put any specific measures in place to reduce its electricity expenditure, apart from continuing its ongoing strategy of factoring environmental considerations and energy usage into every new office fit-out.

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Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: ComSuper
Outcome/Program:
Topic: Electricity costs and carbon tax

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Answer:

- a) 1,591,706 kwh of electricity at a total cost of \$221,034.
- b) \$418.
- c) ComSuper has been charged for the carbon tax since 1 July 2012. The total cost incurred by ComSuper for the carbon tax by the end of September 2012 was \$6,604.
- d) Refer to c). This has not changed ComSuper's spending pattern.
- e) ComSuper is currently consolidating its office accommodation. This will reduce ComSuper's electricity expenditure from January 2013. ComSuper also chooses energy efficient options where possible and periodically reminds staff to conserve electricity.

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Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Electricity costs and carbon tax

Senator: McKenzie

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Answer:

- a) 95,547 kwh at a total cost of \$28,863.
- b) \$1,924.
- c) Year to date cost was \$8,870, per employee was \$554; for same period last year cost was \$7,321, per employee was \$488.
- d) No change.
- e) Power saving programs are in place eg the power is set to shut down at certain times of the day, lights in meeting rooms shut down after people have left the room; photocopiers have 'power saver' modes which are activated during periods of non-use. These measures have been in place since June 2011. See costs above for impact.

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Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department/Agency: Future Fund Management Agency

Outcome/Program:

Topic: Electricity costs and carbon tax

Senator: McKenzie

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Answer:

- a) 177,215 KwH. \$36,084
- b) \$405.
- c) Compared to the same quarter in the previous year, the price per KwH has increased by 21%.
- d) The Agency has not changed its spending pattern. No programs have been cut.
- e) The Agency continues to make use of efficient lighting systems and controls.