

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

**Topic:** Electricity Usage

**Senator:** Senator McKenzie

**Question reference number:** 139

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

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

**Answer:**

- i. The Department's electricity consumption for the financial year 2011-2012 was 1,912,110 kWhs. Arts and Sport Group consumption for this period will be provided separately by the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport.  
Information on the total cost is provided in response to PM136.
- ii. The electricity cost for financial year 2011-2012 was approximately \$423 per employee.
- iii. The total increase in electricity costs for One National Circuit, Barton from June 2012 to July 2012 was approximately 33%. For the July 2012 invoice, 11.92% was due to the Carbon Pricing Scheme. All other increases are due to other factors such as increases in unit prices and consumption.

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- iv. Due to early notification by the Department's electricity provider of the expected impact of the carbon pricing scheme, the Department was able to factor the increase into the 2012-13 internal budget process. The Department has also implemented a number of energy saving initiatives as outlined below.
  
- v. The Department's primary office accommodation at One National Circuit, Barton was constructed in 2007 with energy efficiency as a key design feature, including an advanced building management and lighting control system. The building currently operates at a 4.5 star NABERS energy efficiency rating. Between 2007 and 2012 the Department has introduced a number of energy saving initiatives and these include:
  - Lights on timers within meeting rooms
  - Light switches within meeting rooms and breakout areas to allow occupants to turn lights off when they leave the room.
  - Movement sensors controlling lights within offices and work pods
  - Introduction of energy efficient computers

For the first three months of 2012-13, the Department's energy consumption at One National Circuit is 3.5% lower than for the same period in 2011-12.