

## DPS Environmental Myth Buster—#7

**“It’s true, the flagpole must be lit up to minimise its hazard to aviation”**

### Earth Hour—15 days to go!

The flag flies 101 metres above the ground and this penetrates the “Obstacle Limitation Surfaces” of Canberra Airport. Under the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*, the flagpole must be lit to minimise its hazard to aviation.

The flag is therefore one essential light that will not be switched off during **Earth Hour**—an event taking place in Australia and around the world on Saturday 29 March 2008. From 8pm to 9pm on that date, major cities around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to raise awareness of climate change.

Most lights at Parliament House can be switched off and the effect should be dramatic.

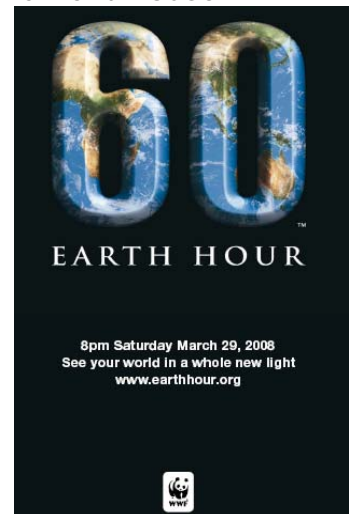
DPS will monitor electricity use to see just how much we save compared to a typical Saturday. Last Saturday, between 8pm and 9pm, Parliament House consumed 1,958 kWh of electricity.

To help maximise energy savings during **Earth Hour**, please make a special effort to:

- switch off your office lights;
- turn-off all the appliances you can (eg microwaves, printers, photocopiers, faxes); and
- shut down your computer.

If you would like to make the **Earth Hour** event a success, then you can also participate at home. To sign up as an individual go to [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org) and register your details.

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*Strategic Planning and Policy*