



Australian Government

Department of Finance and Administration

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The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Attention: Ms Vivienne Courto

Dear Ms Courto

Department of Finance and Administration, Property and Construction Division (Finance) Response to PWC Submission from the Australian Greenhouse Office

Thank you for referring a copy of the letter dated 4 August 2005 from the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) of the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) concerning the refurbishment of the Royal Australian Mint (Mint). Finance appreciates the assistance that the AGO has provided to date in developing environmental strategies for this project.

Finance acknowledges the need to consider all environmental aspects relating to the Mint refurbishment project. In this regard Finance will endeavour to explore opportunities to enhance the environmental performance of the buildings as the detailed design and construction phases progress. This will be achieved in consultation with the AGO taking into consideration the Mint's particular heritage issues.

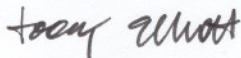
As outlined in Finance's submission the primary function of refurbished Process Building is not rated under the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (ABGR), GREENSTAR or National Australian Built Environment Energy Rating System (NABERS) rating schemes as it is not a commercial office building. The office space within the newly refurbished Process Building will however be designed to achieve an energy target equal to that of a 4.0 star ABGR rating. This approach ensures that there is framework in place to focus on the reduction of energy consumption, operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions for this portion of the building.

On 9 August 2005 Finance met with AGO to discuss the respective energy ratings of the Process and Administration Buildings. At this meeting the following approach was agreed:

- Finance will use best endeavors to achieve 4.5 stars ABGR base building for the refurbishment of the Administration Building with an undertaking that it will consult with DEH (Buildings and Government Efficiency Team) as to identified heritage issues impacting on the attainment of 4.5 stars ABGR;
- In relation to the Process Building office refurbishment Finance will use best endeavors to achieve 4.0 stars ABGR base building or better and will consult with DEH as to meeting 4.0 stars ABGR Base Building rating or better, given the identified heritage issues, keeping in mind that the Royal Australian Mint seek a 4.5stars ABGR tenancy; and
- Separate digital metering for tenant light and power and base building services for both the Administration and Process Building.

As outlined, Finance will use best endeavours to achieve a 4.0 star (or better) ABGR rating for the base building refurbishment and will consult with AGO given the identified heritage issues.

Yours sincerely



Toocy Elliott

Branch Manager

Property Management Branch

11 August 2005