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Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
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Re: Refurbishment of Staff Apartments, Australian Embassy Complex, Paris, France

The refurbishment of staff apartments for the Australian Embassy in Paris, outlined in the Department of Foreign Affairs submission to the Committee dated June 2003, is not directly subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth Energy Policy as detailed in the then Department of Industry, Science and Resources March 2000 publication titled *Measures for Improving Energy Efficiency in Commonwealth Operations*.

However the Government expects Commonwealth departments and agencies to lead by example. In this regard the Commonwealth Energy Policy provides guidance on the standards required.

Section 4.4 of the Commonwealth Energy Policy requires that Commonwealth housing shall achieve a 4-star or better rating using the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS). The refurbishment of the staff apartments should aim to achieve this rating. In addition, Section 4.5 requires that departments and agencies purchase equipment and appliances labeled as 4-star or better under the appliance energy efficiency rating label. The proposed refurbishment should comply with the intent of these provisions to demonstrate good practice use of energy efficient equipment wherever possible.

Sections 17.8 and 19 of the DFAT submissions outline a number of energy efficiency measures that would contribute to minimising energy consumption in the Paris apartments. It is therefore recommended that any Public Works Committee approval for the proposed works to proceed should be made subject to the incorporation of these energy efficiency measures into the refurbishment of the building.

Should you require additional information please contact Ms Kay Abel at the Australian Greenhouse Office on 02 6274 1039 or fax 02 6274 1913.

James Shevlin
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Built Environment and Communities Branch
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