

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 147
Hearing: Supplementary Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Corporate Strategies Division (CSD)
Topic: ICT Sustainability Plan and Recycled Paper
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 02 November 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Rice asked:

1. With regard to the recent changes to the ICT Sustainability Plan, which outlined that all government operations use 100% recycled paper by July 2015:
 - a) Have new government operations paper contracts been signed, and if so for which paper product?
 - b) What will replace Guideline 4 - recycled paper of the ICT Sustainability Plan?
 - c) What savings are projected, if any, as a result of not preferencing 100% recycled paper?
 - d) If not by specifying recycled paper, how will the government support environmentally sustainable paper use in its operations?

Answer:

- (a) The Australian Government strongly supports recycling and sustainable use of any products to prevent valuable materials going to landfill.

Minister Hunt has written to other Ministers to ask that, wherever possible, agencies use 100% recycled paper and is exploring options to increase the use of 100% recycled paper.

The Department of the Environment only buys 100% recycled copy paper. Other agencies would need to be contacted separately to confirm any new paper contracts.

- (b) Recycled paper continues to be supplied to Government agencies in accordance with the National Waste Policy.
- (c) The Department is not aware of any savings or changes. We continue to use 100% recycled paper.
- (d) Recycled paper continues to be supplied to Government agencies in accordance with the National Waste Policy.

The Finance Department's Commonwealth Procurement rules ensure environmental sustainability is part of the considerations in achieving the cost effective use of resources in procurement decisions.