

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	117
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSD		
Topic:	Election Commitments		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Were any of the government's election promises in your portfolio costed before the election was called by the department or Treasury or Finance? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.

Answer:

No. All of the Government's portfolio election promises were costed after the election was called.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	118
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSMD		
Topic:	Election Commitments		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Had your department or any agency in your portfolio provided information on any of the government's election promises in your portfolio to the Government before the election was called?
2. Was any work done on formulating any of the Government's election commitments? If so, which ones? Provide details of what work was done.

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Yes. In relation to the formulation of the Carbon Farming Initiative election commitment, the Department provided advice to the then Minister, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, about the design and implementation of a carbon offset program from late 2009, initially in the context of the amendments to the *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) Bill 2009*.

Following the failure of the CPRS legislation to pass through the Parliament in 2010, the Department continued to provide policy and technical advice related to the establishment of a stand-alone offset scheme.

In relation to the Tax Breaks for Green Buildings and the Low Carbon Communities election commitments, the Department provided verbal and email advice to Minister Wong's office prior to the caretaker period in relation to possible approaches and some technical matters.

With regard to A Cleaner Future for Power Stations, the Department assisted the Government to formulate its policy prior to the calling of the federal election in July 2010. These policy proposals included the establishment of new emissions standards and reporting requirements for power stations, and in particular that all new coal-fired power stations will be required to meet best practice emissions standards and be built Carbon Capture and Storage Ready.

The Department also assisted the Government with policy design in relation to its Connecting Renewables policy prior to the calling of the federal election. This policy is designed to provide support for major transmission network investments in order to facilitate the connection of renewable energy resources to the electricity network.

In relation to the Cleaner Car Rebate commitment, the Department provided estimates of abatement and fuel savings for a rebate scheme involving scrapping of pre-1995 cars prior to the calling of the election.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	119
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSMD		
Topic:	Election Commitments		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2007 election with the portfolio?
2. Which 2007 election commitments are experiencing slippages?
3. Why?
4. Where relevant, what are the revised implementation dates?
5. What are the implications of this slippage?
6. Are there any 2007 election commitments that will not be implemented? If yes, please provide details.
7. Were departmental resources provided to implement these commitments?
8. How much?
9. What will happen to funding now?

Answer:

1. The status of each of the 25 election commitments from the 2007 election that fall within the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio are provided below.

Eight of these election commitments have been delivered, including:

- ***Ratify Kyoto Protocol: Delivered.***
Kyoto Protocol signed 3 December 2007.
- ***Garnaut Review: Delivered.***
The Garnaut Climate Change review presented its final report to the Government on 30 September 2008.
- ***Increase the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET): Delivered.***
Increase the MRET to 20 per cent by 2020, and aim to phase out the target from 2020 to 2030. Work cooperatively with states and territories to bring both the MRET and existing state-based targets into a single national harmonised scheme.

The expanded national Renewable Energy Target (RET) legislation was passed in August 2009. The scheme is now operating, with legislated annual targets from 2010 to 2030. Legislation to implement the enhanced RET was passed by Parliament on 24 June 2010. From 1 January 2011, the RET will include two parts – the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme and the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target.

– ***Grant for Deception Bay Pool: Delivered.***

A commitment was made to provide a \$250,000 grant for the installation of solar thermal heating panels on the Deception Bay Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) to provide water heating to the Deception Bay Swimming Pool. A revised proposal from Moreton Bay Regional Council to install a 15 kilowatt photovoltaic system on the PCYC roof and a mechanised solar thermal pool blanket received Ministerial approval on 5 May 2009.

Funding was provided in July 2009 and the project has been completed.

– ***Climate change adaptation strategies for the Shire of Serpentine, Jarrahdale and the City of Mandurah: Delivered.***

Provide \$200,000 from the Better Regions Program in 2008-09 to fund climate change adaptation strategies for the Shire of Serpentine, Jarrahdale and the City of Mandurah.

The Peel-Harvey Catchment Council submitted its final report, the Peel Climate Adaptation Project Final Report, to the Department on 11 June 2010. The report included details of the councils' endorsement of the action plan and the regional policy and will inform local government adaptation policy development.

– ***Solar feed-in tariffs: Delivered.***

Work through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to develop a consistent national approach to feed-in tariffs.

On 29 November 2008, COAG agreed to a set of national principles to apply to new feed-in tariff schemes and to inform the reviews of existing schemes. These principles are designed to promote national consistency of schemes across Australia and ensure owners of small scale renewable energy generation systems receive a fair and reasonable value for exported energy. Any premium rates are to be jurisdictionally determined.

– ***Solar Homes and Communities Plan: Delivered.***

Provide \$150 million over five years to households and community buildings to install solar power panels.

Applications for this program closed on 9 June 2009, with the processing of residual rebates due for finalisation by the end of 2010-11. Additional resourcing has been allocated to improve payment processing time frames.

- ***Energy efficient rental homes: Closed.***
Provide rebates to landlords of 30 per cent of the cost of installing insulation, up to a maximum of \$500 per property for 300,000 Australian rental homes – initially targeting low income rental properties and with no limit to the number of eligible properties per landlord.

The Low Emissions Plan for Renters program was incorporated into the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan – Energy Efficient Homes Package. \$18.8 million was provided to 19,591 rental properties for insulation under the program before it closed on 1 September 2009 following lower than expected demand.

15 of the 2007 election commitments have been identified as ‘in progress’, ‘ongoing’ or ‘largely delivered’ and are on track, with no slippages reported:

- ***Assisting the South Pacific to prepare for climate change: In progress.***
\$150 million over three years, from 2008-09, from Australia’s international aid budget to assist our neighbours prepare for and adapt to the effects of climate change as part of the Government’s plan for International Assistance and Climate Change, released on 24 July 2007. This also included the development of a Pacific Climate Change Strategy.

The Government allocated \$150 million over three years in the 2008-09 Budget through the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative (ICCAI), jointly managed by AusAID and the Department. In the 2010-11 Budget, an additional \$178.2 million was allocated to the ICCAI, extending the program for a further two years to 2012-13 and increasing total program funding to \$328.2 million over five years.

The Government has delivered its Pacific Climate Change Strategy. The strategy is outlined in the policy document, Engaging our Pacific Island Neighbours on Climate Change: Australia’s approach, launched by the then Prime Minister, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, at the Pacific Islands Forum, Cairns, in August 2009.

- ***Caring for our coasts: In progress.***
Provide \$25.0 million over five years (from the \$126.0 million allocated to the Australian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation in the 2007-08 Budget) to help prepare coastal communities for the impact of climate change. Establish a climate change adaptation communications campaign. Embark on a national consultation to develop a blueprint for coastal cities and towns to meet current and future climate change challenges.

In November 2009, the Government released the *Climate Change Risks to Australia’s Coast: A First Pass National Assessment* report. The assessment provides a preliminary analysis of the extent and magnitude of risks to Australia’s coastal assets and identifies priority areas for research and investment.

The Government established the Coasts and Climate Change Council in November 2009, with Professor Tim Flannery as Chair, to assist in scoping a National Coastal Adaptation Forum (held on 18-19 February 2010) and engage Australians (government, businesses, professional bodies, communities) in preparing for climate change impacts on the coast. Council members have also held meetings with insurance, banking and engineering sectors, and legal experts. The Council has provided a report to the Minister on an agenda for Coastal Adaptation which will be published on the Department's website shortly.

– ***Climate-Friendly Appliances: In progress.***

Promote climate friendly appliances by establishing a new, 10 star appliance rating system and Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) to fast track smart efficient technology and phase out the most greenhouse intensive hot water systems. Committed to improving the appliance label by adding additional stars to identify more energy efficiency appliances and extending the label to other appliance types.

This commitment is being met through the implementation of the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency (NSEE), agreed by COAG on 2 July 2009.

Aspects of the commitment have been delivered including 10 star rating systems for televisions, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners. Enhanced energy efficiency labelling for an expanded range of products is on track to be delivered.

The Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for national legislation for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and energy labelling was approved by the Office of Best Practice Regulation on 9 June 2010. This marked the completion of stage one of this NSEE measure. Negotiation with states and territories is underway, with the introduction of a GEMS Bill anticipated in 2011.

Since 2007, new or revised MEPS have been introduced for 11 products.

On 1 November 2009, traditional incandescent light bulbs ceased to be available for sale in Australia. Since 1 November 2009, MEPS have been applied at point of sale to compact fluorescent lamps, General Lighting Service incandescent lamps and extra low voltage halogen non-reflector lamps.

– ***Climate-Friendly Hot Water: In progress.***

Phase out the installation of greenhouse-intensive electric hot water heaters in new and existing homes with access to reticulated natural gas by 2010, and as installations in all existing homes by 2012. Grant exemptions for dwellings where the installation of climate-friendly systems is impractical.

A consultation RIS on the phase out of the installation of electric hot water heaters was released on 29 January 2010 and detailed submissions were received.

From May 2010, new hot water measures in the Building Code of Australia (BCA) apply to new homes and major renovations. States and territories have committed to implement the updates in their own building codes.

For existing dwellings, a program commenced in 2009 with a pilot training program for plumbers and hot water installers in South Australia and Queensland. Additional transitional training is being delivered to existing plumbers nationally from June 2010. In addition, online material targeting the general public has been expanded to explain the operation of the various low emission water options and the factors home owners should consider when purchasing a new hot water heater.

– ***Delivering more sustainable housing: In progress.***

Deliver more sustainable housing by making new and existing homes more energy and water efficient, and more affordable to live in. Key elements include: (1) Increasing the minimum energy efficiency requirements for new residential buildings in the 2010 version of the BCA, and including efficiency requirements for lighting and hot water. (2) The phase in of mandatory disclosure of residential building energy, greenhouse and water performance at the time of sale or lease, commencing with energy efficiency by May 2011. (3) The development of a new building energy rating and assessment framework to be implemented in 2011.

This commitment is being met through the implementation of the NSEE, agreed by COAG on 2 July 2009.

Elements have already been delivered. New requirements for residential buildings to adopt a six star minimum residential performance standard and new residential energy efficiency requirements for hot water systems and lighting were included in the update of the BCA released in May 2010. States and territories have undertaken to implement the new residential standards no later than May 2011.

COAG committed to phase in mandatory disclosure of energy, greenhouse and water performance for residential buildings at the time of sale or lease by May 2011. A regulatory impact assessment process commenced in October 2009 and will be open to public consultation in late 2010.

Technical work continues on building rating tools to support the mandatory disclosure regime. Implementation of mandatory disclosure will be through state and territory legislation, and the timing of this is up to individual jurisdictions. COAG committed to develop a National Building Standard Setting, Assessment and Rating Framework to drive improvements in the energy efficiency of Australia's building stock, to be agreed by jurisdictions by the end of 2010. An outline of the Framework has been developed, to be implemented through a staged approach. The Framework is now likely to be completed in 2011.

– ***Development of a Post-Kyoto Agreement: In progress.***

Agree as soon as possible to further binding commitments/actions for post-2012 for both developed and developing countries.

Australia continues to work towards an effective, fair and efficient legally binding international climate outcome under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for the post-2012 period that includes emission reduction commitments from all major economies.

Australia formally associated with the Copenhagen Accord (Accord) and submitted its existing 2020 target range pledge for reducing emissions on 27 January 2010. To date, more than 80 countries – including the United States of America, China, India and Brazil – have pledged to cut and limit their emissions. In Cancun, Australia played a constructive part in negotiating an outcome that recognises the standing of the Accord pledges by formally incorporating them into the UNFCCC. The Cancun outcome creates the framework for a transparent emissions reduction system with a measurement, reporting and verification framework for the mitigation efforts of all countries.

In 2011, Australia will continue its efforts, through the UNFCCC and other fora, towards securing a post-2012 legally binding international climate outcome – including by working closely with our UNFCCC partners on the prompt and effective implementation of the Accord and Cancun Agreements. Australia is also delivering its fair share of the collective ‘fast-start’ financing element of the Accord. Australia’s fast-start package of AUD\$599 million for 2010 to 2012 is fully-budgeted grant-based funding, balanced evenly between support for mitigation and for adaptation.

- ***Disclosure of commercial building energy efficiency: In progress.***
Require disclosure of energy or environmental ratings for appropriate types of large commercial buildings at point of sale and point of lease. Mandatory disclosure will be phased in gradually, beginning with office buildings above a threshold of 5,000m².

The Government’s election commitment was reinforced in the NSEE and is being implemented in two phases. Phase one of the Commercial Building Disclosure program, which covers offices, commenced on 1 November 2010. Owners of commercial buildings are now required to disclose the energy efficiency rating when selling, leasing or sub-leasing office space with a net lettable area of 2000m² or more. Phase Two is to cover other types of commercial buildings and will be the subject of further consideration, including assessment of Phase One.

- ***Greenhouse gas emissions reduction target: Ongoing.***
Reduce Australia’s greenhouse gas pollution by 60 per cent of 2000 levels by 2050.

The Government announced its commitment to reduce emissions by 60 per cent of 2000 levels by 2050. Australia’s target conditions (4 May 2009 announcement) stipulate that if there is international agreement capable of achieving stabilisation at 450 parts per million, the Government would seek a new election mandate for increased 2050 targets. Australia’s mid and long term targets are considered in the context of international negotiations and deliberations on domestic policy settings.

- **Green Loans: In progress.**
Provide \$300.0 million for low interest rate Green Loans of up to \$10,000 for 200,000 households to make existing homes more energy and water efficient, with subsidised environmental audits and free Green Renovation packs.

The Green Loans Program commenced with a national rollout on 1 July 2009. Program changes were announced on 19 February 2010, 8 July 2010 and on 21 December 2010; the Government announced the decision to extend the Green Loans Program to 28 February 2011. The Green Loans Program will therefore close on 28 February 2011.

- **National Solar Schools Program: In progress.**
Provide up to \$480.6 million between 2007-08 and 2014-15 to provide private and public schools with grants of up to \$50,000 to install solar technology, and for energy and water efficiency improvements.

The commitment to increase funding to \$480.6 million was implemented in the 2008-09 Budget, with the program extending to 2014-15. In July 2010 changes were made to the program. These included: introduction of competitive annual grant funding rounds with capped annual budgets; delivery of funding to government schools through a National Partnership Agreement; and reduction of a school's funding eligibility to \$15,000 where it has received funding approval for a solar power system under any other Australian Government funding program.

In the 2010-11 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the program's funding was reduced by \$53.1 million.

- **A national standard for carbon offsets: Largely delivered.**
Establish a national standard for carbon offsets to ensure consumer confidence in the rapidly growing carbon offset market. The development of the standard and its administration will be completed by 31 December 2008 as an integral part of preparation for emissions trading.

The National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) was released on 24 November 2009 and took effect on 1 July 2010. The Australian Carbon Trust (Carbon Trust) is administering the Carbon Neutral Program under the NCOS. The NCOS Carbon Neutral Program Guidelines and Certification Trade Mark were released in July 2010, following close consultation with the Carbon Trust and key stakeholders.

On 27 October 2010, the Government announced the appointment of six experts who will form an independent panel, the Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee, to assess and make recommendations on methodologies which will provide the basis for approving domestic offsets projects under the NCOS. The first NCOS review will commence towards the end of 2010.

Remaining policy and governance issues associated with the implementation of domestic offsets are currently being considered.

– ***Enhance the existing Government Energy Efficiency Policy for reducing energy and water use in Government buildings: In progress.***

Increase current requirements for new Commonwealth office buildings and leases to have a minimum five star Australian Building Greenhouse Rating (or equivalent), and existing offices will need to set up a plan to achieve a five star rating over time. Encourage all unnecessary lights in government offices to be turned off at night when not in use. Require energy and water audits and energy efficiency improvement plans for all agencies with more than 100 staff. Ensure that all appliances are the most efficient and cost effective available.

This commitment is being met through the implementation of the NSEE, agreed by COAG on 2 July 2009. The NSEE commits jurisdictions to implementing a range of energy efficiency measures to improve the energy efficiency of governments' own operations, including: significantly improving the environmental performance of government owned or occupied buildings; reducing travel relating to government business (including through implementation of a TelePresence network); and placing greater emphasis on energy efficiency as part of broader improvements to the sustainable procurement practices of governments.

The Energy Efficiency in Government Operations (EEGO) policy remains the principal policy for Commonwealth agencies in relation to energy consumption. It establishes energy efficiency targets for Australian Government building use, to be met by June 2011. It requires new Government leases or major refurbishments to attain 4.5 stars under the National Australian Built Environment Rating System.

The EEGO Policy requires all new leases over 2,000m² (ie about 100 staff) to use the Green Lease Schedule that requires annual energy ratings and an energy management plan. Water management is being considered as part of the national Green Lease policy requirements, a part of the NSEE. Government departments are required under the EEGO policy to purchase energy star appliances where available and fit-for-purpose.

– ***Solar Cities: In progress.***

Invest an extra \$25 million over four years in the Solar Cities program to create new solar cities and bring total funding to \$100 million. Of the \$25 million in Solar Cities funding: \$13.9 million will support a Perth Solar City; and \$4.9 million will support the Coburg Solar Village project. The \$4.9 million commitment will be matched by \$5.33 million from Moreland City Council, the Victorian Government, industry partners, Moreland Energy Foundation and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence.

The Perth Solar City funding agreement was executed on 9 September 2009 and the project is “in progress” until program completion in June 2013. All elements are tracking in accordance with the delivery timetables in the funding agreement. The Moreland (formerly Coburg) Solar City funding agreement was executed on 8 December 2008 and the project is “in progress” until program completion in June 2013. The energy efficiency behavioural change elements of the project that rely on participant recruitment have experienced some slippage but it is not expected that the outcomes delivered by Moreland Solar City against the Solar City Program’s objectives will be reduced.

– ***One-stop Green Shop: Largely delivered.***

Establish a user-friendly One-Stop Green Shop website to link families, schools and businesses to all Commonwealth, state and local government household efficiency programs.

The One-Stop Green Shop was launched as LivingGreener.gov.au on 21 August 2009. The website provides information and access to Commonwealth, state and territory government programs on energy, water, waste and transport to help households live more sustainably.

The election commitment is being implemented according to schedule, with the site being upgraded and improved in a series of staged releases in 2010 and 2011.

– ***Solar Hot Water Rebates: Largely delivered.***

Provide \$250.0 million for rebates of up to \$1,000 for the installation of solar and heat-pump hot water systems, payable to households with a taxable income of less than \$100,000 who install solar or heat-pump systems as replacements for electric storage hot water systems in established homes.

Current funding to 2011-12 is \$577 million for the Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme. The program is no longer subject to an income test. Rebates of \$1,000 for solar hot water and \$600 for heat pump systems are available when replacing an electric storage hot water system.

The Department has taken advice in relation to one of the 2007 election commitments which falls outside of the ambit of the Executive arm of the Government.

– ***Set a target to power Parliament House and all MP electorate offices with renewable and clean energy.***

In relation to Parliament House, under the *Parliamentary Precincts Act 1988* the control and management of the Parliamentary Precincts lies with the Presiding Officers and not with the Executive arm of the Government.

Parliament House sources 10 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable sources and a further 15 per cent is offset. The renewable energy sources amount to approximately 29,000 megawatts per hour.

The Department of Finance and Deregulation has responsibility for MPs electorate offices.

2. One of the election commitments from the 2007 election within the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio is experiencing slippage.

- ***Introduce a national emissions trading scheme (ETS): In progress.***
Establish a cap-and-trade ETS to start no later than 2010 with the detailed design finalised by 2008.

The detailed design of a national ETS, the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), was completed on 15 December 2008 with the release of the White Paper.

CPRS legislation was developed to give effect to the Government's policy outlined in the White Paper. The legislation was twice rejected by the Senate in August and December 2009.

Subsequently, the commitment to establish a national ETS to start no later than 2010 has been delayed.

The Government is continuing to prosecute the case for a price on carbon. It has established a Multi-Party Climate Change Committee to consider options for the implementation of a carbon price in Australia and to help build consensus for action on climate change.

3. Please refer to response to part 1.
4. Please refer to response to part 1.
5. Please refer to response to part 1.
6. Not applicable.
7. Not applicable.
8. Not applicable.
9. Not applicable.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	120
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSMD		
Topic:	Election Commitments		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is the status of each election commitment from the 2010 election within the portfolio? Please provide a list.
2. Has implementation of the 2010 election commitments within the portfolio commenced? If yes, provide details. If no, why not?
3. Will additional departmental resources be required to implement 2010 election commitments within your portfolio? If yes, provide details. If no, why not? If unable to provide an answer please explain why.
4. How will the election commitments in your portfolio be offset?
5. Will your portfolio be required to offset the new spending in your portfolio?

Answer:

1. The 2010 election commitments to be implemented by the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Portfolio are: the Carbon Farming Initiative, the Low Carbon Communities program, the Climate Change Commission and Tax Breaks for Green Buildings. On 7 October 2010 the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced that the Citizen's Assembly election commitment would not proceed.
2. The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (the Department) has begun implementing the Portfolio's election commitments.

The appointment of the Domestic Offset Integrity Committee was announced on 27 October 2010, delivering the first step in the implementation of the Carbon Farming Initiative. This independent body will undertake expert assessment of methodologies which will form the basis for designing and crediting greenhouse gas abatement projects under the initiative. The Government is currently considering other design details of the initiative, and public consultation on these issues will be undertaken before the end of the 2010 calendar year.

Initial program design of the Low Carbon Communities measure has begun including development of program guidelines and liaison with key stakeholders.

Implementation planning for the Climate Change Commission has commenced, focusing in particular on settling the Commission's terms of reference, structure and possible membership.

The Department has also commenced work on detailed program design for the Tax Breaks for Green Buildings program. Work currently underway includes initial planning, analysis and preliminary consultation with key stakeholders.

3. No additional departmental resources are required to implement the 2010 election commitments because they are all funded from the Renewable Energy Future Fund (REFF). The administrative costs for the Climate Change Commission will be absorbed by the Department.
4. The 2010 election commitments are fully funded from the REFF.
5. Not applicable.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	121
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	CSMD		
Topic:	2010 Election		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What type of work did your portfolio engage in during the campaign?
2. Did you receive any requests for information from the Government, your portfolio Ministers or any other Ministers?

Answer:

1. In accordance with the Caretaker Conventions, during the 2010 election campaign (19 July to 20 August 2010) the Department continued to carry out ongoing program implementation and administrative tasks. The Department also prepared strategic and administrative briefing for the incoming Government.
2. The Department continued to provide information of a purely factual nature to the Minister throughout the Caretaker period. This is consistent with the Caretaker Conventions.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	122
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	2010 Election – Red Book		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?

Answer:

The Department has released its Incoming Government Brief, commonly referred to as the Red Book. The Department has made the decision to release the document due to the high level of interest in the Brief. The document was released on 29 October 2010 and is available on the Department's website.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	123
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	2010 Election – Blue Book		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Will the Department be releasing its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and why? If no, why not?

Answer:

The Department has released its Incoming Government Brief, commonly referred to as the Red Book, and is available on the Department's website.

In line with normal administrative procedures, the Department neither finalised nor retained copies of the draft brief for an incoming Coalition government after the result of the election was clear in early September 2010. All copies of the Blue Book were destroyed in accordance with normal administrative procedures.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	124
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Post-election briefing – Red Book		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fielding asked:

1. Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a returned Labor Government (the so-called 'Red Book')?
2. Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
3. If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
4. If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
5. Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. The Department has made the decision to publicly release the document due to the high level of public interest in the Brief and in line with the commitment to open and transparent Government. A copy of the Incoming Government Brief (Red Book), redacted consistent with the exemptions in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, is available on the Department's website.
3. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.
5. The Minister has not given any instructions to the Department regarding the release of this brief.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	125
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Post-election briefing – Blue Book		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Fielding asked:

1. Did the department prepare a post-election brief for a newly elected Coalition Government (the 'Blue Book')?
2. Can the department provide the committee with a copy of this brief?
3. If not, can the department outline its reasons for refusing to provide a copy of this brief?
4. If the department will not provide a copy of this brief because it contains confidential or sensitive information, can the department provide a redacted copy of this brief as was done by the Treasury Department?
5. Has the Minister given any instructions to the department regarding the release of this brief and if so, what were these instructions?

Answer:

1. A draft Blue Book was prepared but was not finalised.
2. No.
3. The Department has released its Incoming Government Brief, commonly referred to as the Red Book, and is available on the Department's website. In line with normal administrative procedures the Department did not finalise nor retain the draft brief for an incoming Coalition government after the result of the election was clear. All copies of the Blue Book were destroyed in accordance with normal administrative procedures.
4. No.
5. No.

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Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	126
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 5		

Senator Abetz asked:

Senator ABETZ—Could I ask a few questions then and you can take them on notice. If I recall correctly, 126 questions were not answered up until about a week ago. Given the lack of information forthcoming, can we be advised, in relation to each of those 126 questions, on what date each one of the draft answers went to the minister's office, on what date it was tabled and whether any of those 126 were sent back to the department for further drafting. I think that will then sort out where the mischief occurred—whether it was with the department, whether it was with Minister Wong or whether it was with her successor.

Dr Parkinson—I will take that on notice, Senator.

Answer:

69 Questions on Notice (QoNs) were sent to Minister Wong's Office between 13 and 16 July 2010. With the announcement of Caretaker on 19 July 2010, all 69 QoNs were returned to the Department.

All 126 QoNs were then provided to Minister Combet's Office between 23 September and 6 October 2010. 11 of these QoNs were returned for redrafting. All except 10 QoNs were submitted to the Committee on 15 October 2010, with the Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing on 18 October 2010. These responses have subsequently been provided to the Committee.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	127
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

If there are any outstanding questions on notice from Budget Estimates 2010:
Please explain why there are still some outstanding questions on notice from Budget
Estimates 2010.

Answer:

As at 17 November 2010, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has no
Questions on Notice outstanding from the May 2010 Budget Estimates Hearing.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	128
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Ministerial Submissions		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began?
2. Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes?
3. How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back?
4. What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last?
5. Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent?

Answer:

1. Yes, Minister Combet's Office returned documents during the Caretaker period.
2. Minister Combet's Office returned Ministerial briefs and submissions.
3. From 19 July 2010, 11 Ministerial briefs and submissions were returned to the Department.
4. 19 July 2010 and 17 August 2010.
5. The Department did not receive any formal request from the Minister or his Office that no more submissions or briefs be sent prior to announcement of the election. The Department continued to provide factual ministerial submissions to Minister Combet throughout the Caretaker period. This is consistent with the Caretaker Conventions.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	129
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Electorate Reports		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Did the Department prepare electorate level reports for the Government Ministers for the 2010 election?
2. What data is included in these reports?
3. How often is this updated?
4. Why is this material not publicly available? Please provide copy of latest reports.

Answer:

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency did not prepare electorate level reports for Ministers for the 2010 election.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	130
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Commissioned Reports		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. How many Reports have been commissioned by the Government in your portfolio since Budget Estimates 2010? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.
2. How much did each report cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
3. What is the current status of each report? When is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

Answer:

1. No reports have been commissioned since Budget Estimates 2010.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	131
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Board Appointments		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is the gender ratio on each board and across the portfolio?
2. What is the gender ratio of appointments made to boards since Budget Estimates 2010?
3. Are you implementing the Government target of 40 per cent women appointed to Boards?

Answer:

Board appointments would ordinarily refer to bodies covered by the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act). However, consistent with Government Boards Reporting – Women on Australian Government Boards reporting parameters, which extends this CAC Act interpretation to also include: Ministerial Advisory Committees, review committees where appointments are made by Cabinet, and statutory authorities not covered by the *Public Service Act 1999* (includes most tribunals), the following response is given.

1. Across the portfolio approximately 38 per cent of appointments are women.

The gender ratio on each board is as follows:

- Australian Carbon Trust;
 - zero per cent are women (currently four male appointees);
- Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group;
 - 60 per cent are women (three of five appointees);
- Coasts and Climate Change Council;
 - 57 per cent are women (four of seven appointees);
- Expert Advisory Committee (emissions-intensive trade-exposed activities);
 - zero per cent are women (currently two appointees);
- Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee; and
 - 33 per cent are women (two of six appointments).

Details are provided in the attached table.

2. Since Budget Estimates, appointments have been made to the Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group, of which 60 per cent are women, and the Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee, of which 33 per cent are women.

3. The target of 40 per cent women appointments to boards is outside the scope of departmental responsibilities as the Department does not determine Government board appointments.

Person	Gender	State	Body	Position	Period of appointment
Prof Robert Hill	Male	SA	Australian Carbon Trust	Chair	January 2010 to January 2012
Mr Martijn Wilder	Male	NSW	Australian Carbon Trust	Director	January 2010 to January 2012
Mr Anthony Coleman	Male	NSW	Australian Carbon Trust	Director	January 2010 to January 2012
Mr Don Matthews	Male	VIC	Australian Carbon Trust	Director	January 2010 to January 2012
Prof Will Steffen	Male	ACT	Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group	Member	May 2010 to May 2011
Dr Andrew Ash	Male	QLD	Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group	Member	May 2010 to May 2011
Ms Sam Mostyn	Female	NSW	Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group	Member	May 2010 to May 2011
Prof. Sue Richardson	Female	SA	Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group	Member	May 2010 to May 2011
Councillor Paddi Creevey	Female	WA	Climate Futures Report Independent Expert Group	Member	May 2010 to May 2011
Councillor Lorraine Pyefinch	Female	QLD	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	July 2010 to December 2010
Prof Tim Flannery	Male	NSW	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	October 2009 to February 2010
Ms Sam Mostyn	Female	NSW	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	October 2009 to February 2010
Prof Bruce Thom	Male	NSW	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	October 2009 to February 2010
Prof Barbara Norman	Female	ACT	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	October 2009 to February 2010
Councillor Ron Clarke MBE	Male	QLD	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	October 2009 to February 2010
Councillor Paddi Creevey	Female	WA	Coasts and Climate Change Council	Member	October 2009 to February 2010
Mr John Marlay	Male	NSW	Expert Advisory Committee (emissions-intensive trade-exposed activities)	Member	March 2010 to December 2010
Prof David Boymal	Male	VIC	Expert Advisory Committee (emissions-intensive trade-exposed activities)	Member	March 2010 to December 2010
Mr Duncan McGregor	Male	NSW	Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee	Chair	October 2010 to June 2012
Mr Rob Fowler	Male	NSW	Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee	Member	October 2010 to June 2012
Dr J Mark Dangerfield	Male	NSW	Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee	Member	October 2010 to June 2012
Prof Annette Cowie	Female	NSW	Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee	Member	October 2010 to June 2012
Ms Shayleen Thompson	Female	ACT	Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee	Government representative	October 2010 to June 2012
Dr Brian Keating	Male	QLD	Domestic Offsets Integrity Committee	CSIRO representative	October 2010 to June 2012

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	132
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	FOI Requests		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

1. The Department processes Freedom of Information (FOI) applications in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), FOI Regulations and the FOI Guidelines available from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Departmental representatives have undertaken a range of professional development and training on FOI including attending the FOI Practitioner's Forum hosted by the Australian Government Solicitor and training on the FOI reforms provided by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.
2. Between Budget Estimates on 27 May 2010 and Supplementary Budget Estimates on 18 October 2010, the Department:
 - received 10 new FOI applications made under section 15 of the FOI Act;
 - received four applications for internal review under section 54 of the FOI Act,
 - accepted transfer of two applications from other Commonwealth agencies under section 16 of the FOI Act; and
 - processed one consultation request from other Commonwealth and State agencies.

3. Of the FOI applications received between Budget Estimates on 27 May 2010 and Supplementary Budget Estimates on 18 October 2010, the Department:
 - granted partial access in four FOI cases;
 - refused access in four FOI cases;
 - had four applications withdrawn;
 - transferred one FOI application; and
 - provided comments on one consultation request.

The remaining cases were still being processed by the Department as at 18 October 2010.

4. No conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI applications received by the Department.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	133
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	FOI Requests – Red Book		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

Answer:

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (the Department) received five Freedom of Information applications for the Incoming Government Brief (Red Book). Due to the interest in the brief prepared for the returned Government, the Department published the Incoming Government Brief, with some material redacted, on its website on 29 October 2010.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011, October 2010

Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	134
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	FOI Requests – Blue Book		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

Answer:

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency received one Freedom of Information application that sought access to the Incoming Government Brief (Blue Book). The Department neither finalised, nor retained, copies of the draft brief for an incoming Coalition government. All copies of the Blue Book were destroyed in accordance with normal administrative procedures, hence it is not available for release.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 135
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: GPSD
Topic: Community Cabinet Meeting
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since Budget Estimates 2010?
2. How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
3. What was the total cost of this travel?
4. What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

Answer:

There was only one Community Cabinet meeting held since Budget Estimates 2010, which was held in Perth, Western Australia (WA) on 9 June 2010.

Please refer to the table below for answers to parts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Perth WA, Community Cabinet Meeting, 9 June 2010		
Traveller	Fares**	Travel Allowance**
Minister	\$2,185.70	\$425.00
MOP(s) Act employee*	\$2,889.83	\$436.00
MOP(s) Act employee	\$1,238.48	\$265.00
DCCEE Staff – Deputy Secretary	\$2,889.44	\$199.10
Total	\$9,203.45	\$1,325.10
	Subtotals	\$1,325.10
		\$9,203.45
	Total amount	\$10,528.55
<p><i>Note: As Minister Wong's portfolio responsibilities fell across two different Departments, her travel and associated costs are not counted twice through separate reporting from both these Departments.</i></p> <p>*Water **The financial information provided in the tables includes additional destinations not relevant to the Community Cabinet meeting. Given the nature of the flight bookings, the cost of travel to the additional destinations is not able to be disaggregated from the cost of travel to attend Community Cabinet.</p>		

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	136
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Cabinet and sub-Cabinet Committee meetings		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?
2. How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee Meetings be redrafted or re-lodged? Please provide examples of why this would happen. (i.e. last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

Answer:

1. The Department does not record how much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings.
2. Papers/submissions are redrafted as required. The Department does not record how many times papers/submissions are redrafted as there can be many iterations of a paper/submission before it is considered to be a final document.

The Department is unable to comment on how often papers/submissions are re-lodged as this is a question for the Cabinet and the Cabinet's deliberations which remain confidential to the Government of the day.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	137
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Reviews		
Hansard Page EC:	Written		

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What is the total number of Reviews both completed and ongoing in the Department or affecting the Department since Budget Estimates 2010?
2. Please provide a breakdown of reviews completed since Budget Estimates 2010 including:
 - a) when those reviews were provided to Government,
 - b) estimated cost of producing each review (and total cost) and
 - c) if the Government has responded to the review or information about when the Government has indicated it will/will not respond to the review.
3. How many reviews are ongoing?
4. How many reviews have been completed since additional estimates?
5. What further reviews are planned in the portfolio/agency?
6. Will any of these reviews cease due to the 2010 Election?

Answer:

1. The total number of reviews both completed and ongoing since Budget Estimates 2010 that affect the Department are detailed in the table below.
2. The breakdown of publication, cost and government response is detailed in the table below:

Review Title	Author	Date of public release	Estimated production cost	Current status of each report When has the Government indicated it will respond?
Independent Inquiry – Green Loans Program – Review of Procurement Processes and Contractual Arrangements	Ms Patricia Faulkner AO	June 2010	Total cost \$250,000	The Department has formally responded. The response is available at http://www.climatechange.gov.au/media/whats-new/green-loans.aspx .
Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts – Inquiry into the Energy Efficient Homes Package	Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts	Report tabled 15 July 2010	As a matter of course Senate inquiries do not provide a cost figure for undertaking an inquiry.	The Government will respond to this inquiry in due course.
Review of Management of the Green Loans Program	Australian National Audit Office (ANAO)	Report tabled 29 September 2010	Total cost \$685,000 (source: ANAO Audit Report No. 9, 2010-11, Green Loans Program).	The Department's response is included in the final report.
Audit of the Establishment and Administration of the Home Insulation Program	ANAO	Report tabled 15 October 2010	Total cost \$653,091 (source: ANAO Report No. 12, 2010-11, Home Insulation Program).	The Department's response is included in the final report.

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts – Green Loans	Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications – Environment and Communications Reference Committee	Report tabled 27 October 2010	As a matter of course, Senate inquiries do not provide a cost figure for undertaking an inquiry.	The Committee report has been tabled. The Department is awaiting formal notification of tabling in order to prepare a response.
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3. There are currently no ongoing reviews.
4. Two reviews have been completed since additional estimates.
5. The following further reviews are planned for the agency:
 - An external review of the establishment of the Green Start program is scheduled for late 2010/early 2011. Requests for quotation have been received by the department and are currently undergoing assessment. It is expected that the review will be undertaken between November 2010 and February 2011.
 - Under section 162 of the *Renewable Energy (Electricity Amendment Act 2010)*, the Minister must cause an independent review of the operation of this Act and the scheme constituted by this Act as soon as practicable after 30 June 2012 and every two years thereafter.
6. Neither of these reviews will cease due to the 2010 Election.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome: 1 **Question No:** 138
Program: Corporate
Division/Agency: GPSD
Topic: Government Stationery Requirements
Hansard Page EC: Written

Senator Abetz asked:

1. What are the government (Ministers/Parliamentary Secretaries) stationery requirements in your portfolio (i.e. special type of paper, envelopes)?
2. What are the costs of these items?
3. Is the Department/portfolio agencies paying for these?

Answer:

1. The Minister and Parliamentary Secretary's stationery requirements are envelopes, business cards, with compliment slips and notepads. The Department uses a standard plain Reflex A4 Ultra White grade paper to print correspondence and ministerial submissions for the Minister and Parliamentary Secretary.
2. The costs for these items are outlined in the table below.

Product	Cost – including GST	Type of Paper
Envelopes*		Virgin Australian Pulp 80gsm -100gsm
- DL Size	\$27.97 per 500	
- C4 Size	\$52.04 per 250	
- C5 Size	\$63.39 per 500	
Business Cards*	\$74.30 per 500 order for 10 people Or \$242.60 per 250 order for 1 person	280 Tablex Linen
With Complimentary Slips*	\$14.15 per 100 sheets	80gsm White Bond
A5 Notepads*	\$18.86 per 100 sheets	80gsm White Bond
Paper – plain	\$32.21 per box – 5 reams	Reflex A4 Ultra White

* Costs for envelopes, business cards, with complimentary slips and A5 note pads will all vary depending on the print order.

3. The Department pays for the stationery items listed in the response to part 2.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	139
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 5		

Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—To complement Senator Abetz's question, in relation to questions on notice Nos 3 and 98 from the budget estimates, could you please provide those two as case studies. Both are fairly short sharp questions, I would have thought. Please provide case studies of when answers were drafted, when they were submitted to the minister's office and whether they were returned to the department. It is the same type of information that Senator Abetz has asked for generically but in case study format for those two.

Dr Parkinson—I will look into that, Senator.

Answer:

Question on Notice (QoN) No. 3 was submitted to Minister Combet's Office on 29 September 2010 and submitted to the Committee on 15 October 2010. The response to QoN No. 98 was submitted to Minister Combet's Office on 23 September 2010 and submitted to the Committee on 15 October 2010.

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	140
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 6		

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—When did those seven answers come back to you from the minister's office?

Dr Parkinson—I could not tell you. I can tell you but I cannot tell you at the moment. In other words, I do not know the answer at the moment.

Senator FISHER—Could you tell us after the morning tea break, given that we are only talking about seven questions?

Dr Parkinson—I will check whether we can get that information by morning tea.

Senator FISHER—Thank you. You might also let us know which seven of the 10 you are talking about. That would be helpful, thank you.

Answer:

The seven Questions on Notice Senator Fisher is referring to are numbers 41, 42, 44, 45, 47, 50 and 68.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee**

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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	141
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 3-4		

Senator Macdonald asked:

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Okay. We could go through this bit by bit. How many answers did you give to the minister prior to the election? That is the question.

Dr Parkinson—I would have to take that on notice.

...

Senator IAN MACDONALD—No, I am saying the minister today may have suggested he did not come with the number of answers that he had prepared and given to you, Minister, when you were, for those horrible three years, the minister for climate change, and why you did not allow them to be released. We can go all day on this, Dr Parkinson, and you should be aware that these would be the questions we would ask. So let me go there. How many questions did you prepare prior to the election time and send to the minister at the table who was then the relevant minister?

Dr Parkinson—I would have to go back and dig that information out.

Answer:

69 Questions on Notice were sent to Minister Wong's Office between 13 and 16 July 2010. These were returned to the Department at the commencement of the Caretaker period on 19 July 2010.

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
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Answers to questions on notice

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio

Outcome:	1	Question No:	142
Program:	Corporate		
Division/Agency:	GPSD		
Topic:	Questions on Notice		
Hansard Page EC:	EC 8		

Senator IAN MACDONALD—Put it this way: we are asking you on notice if you will tell us which answers you got prior to the election and why you did not release them.

Senator Wong—I think that Dr Parkinson has already said that he would take on notice which questions were received. Insofar as I am able to assist in providing any further detail in relation to that set of data I will. Obviously I have a different portfolio and I do not have many of the staff who were handling these issues in my previous portfolio. So there may be some limitations on my capacity to assist, but insofar as I am able to do so I will.

Answer:

The Department has been advised by Minister Wong that she does not have anything to add to the response provided in Question on Notice No. 126.