

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 October 2011

Question No: SBT 103

Topic: Carbon price package and agency administrative policies

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

Is the carbon price package consistent with all of the policies in your department/agency?

Answer:

The ATO maintains an environmental management action plan – ‘Greening the ATO’– and environmental management policy, which demonstrates a long-term commitment to good environmental citizenship and reducing the ATO’s environmental footprint. This action plan, and subsequent policy, is influencing the acquisition of products, services, contracts and tenders to embed environmental considerations and improve energy, waste, water and emission management within the ATO.

The ATO’s performance is measured against energy intensity targets specified in the Energy Efficiency in Government Operations policy. Tenant light and power intensity is well within the Energy Efficiency in Government Operations’ target of 7,500 megajoules per person with the ATO portfolio of properties trending below this target since 2006-07.

Consumption for 2010-11 has reduced by 8% from the 2009-10 year. Whilst central service usage (electricity and gas consumed in the operation of air-conditioning and lift services provided by building owners) is higher than the prescribed standard, the ATO is taking steps with building owners to reduce its megajoule usage per square metre from 475 to 400 megajoules. These steps include new leases and a planned capital works program where buildings are being systematically upgraded to meet the minimum 4.5 star rating as specified in the Energy Efficiency in Government Operations policy.