

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

18 October 2012

Question: SR26
Topic: Departmental Electricity Costs
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator McKenzie asked:

1. For the financial year 2011-2012, how many kilowatt hour of electricity did the department consume? What was the total cost?
2. What does this cost work out to per employee?
3. What increases in electricity costs has the Department experienced since the introduction of the carbon tax?
4. How has this changed the Department's spending pattern? What programs or services have been cut to meet the increased costs?
5. What measures is the Department taking to reduce its electricity expenditure? When did these commence? What impact have they had?

Answer:

1. In the 2011-12 financial year the department consumed 636,733 kilowatt hours of electricity. The total cost of electricity for the 2011-2012 financial year \$121,286.
2. The cost per employee for electricity is approximately \$219.32.
3. It is not possible for the Department to quantify the increase in electricity costs since the introduction of the carbon tax, as our expenditure on electricity is determined by both usage patterns and charges.
4. The Department manages its electricity costs as part of its overall management of its budget. Programs or services have been cut as a result of movements in electricity costs.
5. The Department continually looks to reduce its operational costs, including expenditure on electricity. This is an ongoing focus within the Department.