

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0847\_12

**Senator Mason asked on 20 October 2011, Hansard page 94**

**Question**

***Universities - carbon tax***

**Senator MASON:** This will sound like an unusual question but we are in unusual times, Ms Paul. Are any universities among the biggest 500 polluters and therefore subject directly to the carbon tax?

**Senator Chris Evans:** I think you asked me that question in the parliament.

**Senator MASON:** Yes, but you did not answer it.

**Senator Chris Evans:** I think I told you all I knew, which I think you and I both found pretty unsatisfactory. Maybe the officers have a better answer than I gave in the parliament.

**Senator MASON:** Ms Paul always knows the answers to these questions.

**Ms Paul:** I am not aware of the university being in that 500. Certainly the ones of that 500 that I have seen are big—

**Senator BACK:** You are ahead of us, Ms Paul, if you have seen the list.

**Ms Paul:** Only the reports of what the list might be.

**Senator MASON:** The reports of the list.

**Ms Paul:** The same as all of us.

**Senator Chris Evans:** We will take that on notice. I do not think so but it is best we take that on notice.

**Answer**

The Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has provided the following response.

The Department has estimated that there will be approximately 500 liable entities in the carbon pricing mechanism. This estimate is based on information available to the Department about companies that reported under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (the NGER Act) in 2010 supplemented with additional information to account for prospective liable entities not currently required to report under this Act.

A small number of universities report under the NGER Act. Based on emissions reported for the 2009-2010 financial year, it is highly unlikely that any universities would be liable entities under the carbon pricing mechanism.