

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 5 - Corporate

DEEWR Question No. EW0692_13

Senator Mason asked on 18 October 2012 , Hansard page 7

Question

Carbon tax on electricity prices for the department

Senator MASON: What is the impact of the carbon tax on electricity prices for your power? Mr Manthorpe: The answer is that we do not know definitively— Senator MASON: You still do not know? Mr Manthorpe: because of the fact that in some of our building arrangements the amount is not— Senator MASON: All right. When are we back next? In February? Mr Manthorpe: That is right. Senator MASON: Will you have an answer for me then? Mr Manthorpe: I will endeavour to have an answer. Senator MASON: I hope you will then. Mr Manthorpe: It depends on how we are billed. So the point I am making— Senator MASON: That is eight months after the beginning of the carbon tax—is that right? It is seven or eight months. Ms Paul: But the point Mr Manthorpe is making is that our bills are going down. Senator MASON: Yes, but the impact of the carbon tax would still be disaggregated from those bills. That is still possible. Ms Paul: Not always. Mr Manthorpe: Not always. The point I am making is that that is not always the case. Senator MASON: Where you can, can you do it. Mr Manthorpe: Yes. Senator MASON: All right. So you will do that for the committee in February? Mr Manthorpe: Yes. Senator MASON: All right. I have asked about this before. I asked about it in May and now, and I do not want you in February to say, 'I wasn't expecting the question; I don't know.' Mr Manthorpe: Indeed, and that is why I have come prepared. That is why I have asked the question inside the department as to how much we incur, and the advice I have is that we do not have a definitive amount. Senator MASON: It is not definitive, but the committee wants to know what you have. Mr Manthorpe: Sure. Would you like me to take on notice what we have—that is, the extent to which we can itemise? Senator MASON: All right. Could you take it on notice. Mr Manthorpe: Yes.

Answer

Electricity accounts received by the department for the department's larger sites in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney, which cover approximately 75% of the department's total energy use, include separately itemised carbon price charges. A summation of all invoices, where the carbon cost component was disaggregated, for the first quarter of 2012-2013 (July-September), is on the following page.

Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney Electricity Invoices - July to September 2012

Location	Total kWh used	Total cost	Carbon cost component
Canberra	1,596,200	\$304,277.77	\$33,664.48
Melbourne	71,680	\$12,763.58	\$1,464.00
Sydney	149,595	\$36,005.25	\$3,117.96

For the department's smaller state and regional sites, retailers supplying electricity have been unable to provide exact details of the proportion of the costs the department is charged, that can be attributed to the carbon price.