

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Finance and Administration

Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2007

Question: F41

Outcome 3, Output 3.1

Topic: Energy efficiency in electorate offices

Written Question on Notice

Senator Murray asked:

1. Can M&PS confirm that as a consequence of the Government's policy in relation Energy Efficiency in Government Operations, and to ensure a strategic approach to minimising the environmental impact of energy usage in Senators and Members' offices, M&PS has requested UGS to develop a National Energy Management Plan (EMP)?
2. Can M&PS confirm that the EMP will involve an energy audit, using available data on energy and water usage in the M&PS property portfolio and site visits to a small number of offices, and a series of recommendations for reducing future energy consumption and costs? Will this be made public?
3. Can M&PS confirm a draft plan will be completed by the end of March 2007? If that is so, by when are members and senators likely to be advised of a) the decisions and b) implementation timelines?

Answer:

1. Yes
2. Yes, the EMP will involve an energy audit, using available data on energy and water usage in the M&PS' property portfolio. There are no current plans to publicly release the electorate office energy audit results.
3. Yes. Senators and Members will be advised of the outcomes of the audit and any relevant decisions by Ministerial or Departmental circular. Implementation of agreed measures will occur as quickly as possible, consistent with the current contractual obligations that apply in relation to electorate offices.