

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2007

**Question: F64-69**

**Outcome, Output: All**

**Topic: Monitoring use of Water in Departments and Agencies**

**Written Question on Notice**

**Senator Wong asked:**

- (1) Is there any requirement to provide details of how much water is used and how much water is saved in the annual reports of each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (2) Is water usage monitored for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (3) What is the water usage for each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio?
- (4) For each department and agency in the Minister's portfolio, can information be provided on whether dual flush toilets are in place in the buildings they occupy?

**Answer:**

**The Department of Finance and Administration (Finance)**

- (1) No. The requirements for annual reports include compliance with Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is no specific requirement within Section 516A of the EPBC Act to provide details of water used and saved in department and agency annual reports.
- (2) No. Finance occupies a number of tenancies, some of which are shared with other organisations. Separate metering is not available and therefore does not provide for departmental water usage monitoring.
- (3) Not available. Refer to (2) above.
- (4) There are three buildings with dual flush toilets, two with both dual and single flush toilets and one without dual flush toilets.

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

**Finance and Administration Portfolio**

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2007

**Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)**

- (1) No. The requirements for annual reports include compliance with Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is no specific requirement within Section 516A of the EPBC Act to provide details of water used and saved in department and agency annual reports.
- (2) No.
- (3) The AEC leases all of its properties. For the majority of leases the requested information is not directly available to the AEC's outsourced property provider.
- (4) There are 74 buildings with dual flush toilets and 58 with single flush toilets.

**Australian Rewards Investment Alliance (ARIA)**

- (1) No. The requirements for annual reports include compliance with Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is no specific requirement within Section 516A of the EPBC Act to provide details of water used and saved in department and agency annual reports.
- (2) No. Water use is not monitored in the offices occupied by ARIA.
- (3) This information is not available.
- (4) Dual flush toilets are in place in the offices occupied by ARIA

**Commonwealth Grants Commission (CGC)**

- (1) No. The requirements for annual reports include compliance with Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is no specific requirement within Section 516A of the EPBC Act to provide details of water used and saved in department and agency annual reports.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) 412 kilolitres for 2005-06.
- (4) Due to the age of the building, dual flush toilets have been installed on an opportunity basis when cisterns require replacement.

## **Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration**

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

#### **Finance and Administration Portfolio**

Additional Budget Estimates Hearing – February 2007

#### **ComSuper**

- (1) No. The requirements for annual reports include compliance with Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is no specific requirement within Section 516A of the EPBC Act to provide details of water used and saved in department and agency annual reports.
- (2) Yes. Water usage is monitored to ensure that there are no major changes to previous periods.
- (3) Water usage for the 2005-06 financial year was 8166 kilolitres.
- (4) No. ComSuper does not currently have dual flush toilets in its leased premises.

#### **Future Fund Management Agency (FFMA)**

- (1) No. The requirements for annual reports include compliance with Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). There is no specific requirement within Section 516A of the EPBC Act to provide details of water used and saved in department and agency annual reports.
- (2) No. The building managers monitor water usage across the building, not specifically the FFMA tenancy.
- (3) Water usage is determined by the building managers according to each tenant's ratio of space occupied.
- (4) The FFMA has installed dual flush capability in the disabled facilities constructed during fit out of the tenancy. The existing building facilities do not include dual flush toilets.