

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2006-2007, 13th and 16th February, 2007

Question: HS65

Agency: Centrelink

Outcome 1, Output 1.1

Topic: Monitoring use of water in Departments and Agencies

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR WONG asked on 16/02/2007:

- (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:

- (1) No.
- (2) There is no national system in place to monitor water consumption across Centrelink's office network. However, water usage is closely monitored in the National Support Office at Tuggeranong Office Park (TOP), Centrelink's largest consuming site. Separate water meters have been installed for the main water consuming functions and have been connected to the Building Management Control System, thus enabling effective monitoring on a daily basis (if required). The result of these initiatives is a water reduction of 12.3 per cent during the period 2002-03 to 2005-06

In addition, Centrelink's new national headquarters building, which is due to open later this year, will be extremely water efficient. Despite being a larger building it will consume 25 per cent less town water than TOP and includes features such as rainwater capture, grey water reuse, dual flush toilets and sensor taps. The new building will also include comprehensive monitoring of water consumption and outfall.

- (3) Total water usage is not known.
- (4) Centrelink's Building Performance Specifications require all new and refurbished premises to have dual flush toilets.

Centrelink occupies approximately 430 offices throughout Australia. Due to the large number and varying age of the buildings not all toilets are dual flush. However, as the older building stock is phased out or refurbished, the remaining single flush toilets are replaced with dual flush models.

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To prepare this answer it has taken approximately 4 hours and 11 minutes at an estimated cost of \$231.