

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee—Additional Budget Estimates February 2007

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Monitoring use of water in departments and agencies

Question P23

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

1 No, but the Department of Parliamentary Services currently reports water usage information for Parliament House.

2 Water use for Parliament House is monitored. However, water use figures are not broken down by reference to particular departments, but cover Parliament House water use by all departments, agencies and private sector bodies operating in Parliament House.

3 Water usage at Parliament House for the financial years 1989-90 to 2005-06 is shown in the table below.

Year	Building	Irrigation	Water used (Kilolitres)	% Building use	% Irrigation use	
1989/90			325,476			No breakdown available for years 1989 to 1999
1990/91			476,908			
1991/92			202,548			
1992/93			324,923			
1993/94			304,260			
1994/95			308,221			
1995/96			349,451			

Year	Building	Irrigation	Water used (Kilolitres)	% Building use	% Irrigation use
1996/97			277,468		
1997/98			229,261		
1998/99			227,789		
1999/2000	89,960	156,650	246,610	36	64
2000/01	97,203	159,697	256,900	38	62
2001/02	109,158	184,508	293,666	37	63
2002/03	96,994	178,154	275,148	35	65
2003/04	74,184	168,137	242,321	31	69
2004/05	70,819	120,983	191,802	37	63
2005/06	93,282	175,188	268,470	35	65

4 The toilets originally installed in the building are single flush toilets that use about 11 litres of water per flush. There are approximately 760 toilets installed in the building. Eight dual-flush toilets have been installed in the Forecourt public car park and eight dual-flush toilets have been installed in the Health and Recreation Centre.