

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee— Additional Budget Estimates February 2009

Parliament Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Answers to Questions on Notice

Topic: Energy consumption and efficiencies.

Questions P21(a)-(c), Written questions on notice

P21(a-c) (BOYCE)-DPS

- a) Will the Department's meet its energy consumption target of 96,951 gigajoules in 2008-2009? What additional steps are being taken to meet this target?
- b) Does the Department measure the energy efficiencies of each suite/office in Parliament?
- c) If yes, Can the Department provide the details of energy efficiencies in each office, including the Prime Minister's.

Answers

- (a) The energy consumption target of 96,951Gj was for electricity for the 2007–08 financial year. The electricity consumption target for 2008–09 is 88,345Gj, a reduction of 9% of the 2007–08 target.

Based on actual electricity consumption to the end of February 2009 and anticipated use for the remainder of the financial year, DPS expects to use approximately 2,800Gj (3.2%) more than its target.

The principal contributing factors are:

- the extended periods of extreme temperatures in Jan/Feb 09; and
- failure of chiller units on two occasions, requiring use of less-energy-efficient chillers.

DPS has an ongoing commitment to reduce energy consumption by 10% over the period 2007–2010. A range of measures have been put in place to achieve this reduction, including:

- undertaking an Energy Audit;
- considering energy efficiency in asset replacement projects, IT purchasing contracts, refurbishments and construction projects;
- reviewing the programs that control when lighting and air-conditioning are switched on and off; and
- trialling energy efficient lamps.

- (b) DPS does not measure energy consumption in individual suites.
- (c) Not applicable.