

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Environment**

Question: **83**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 March 2012

1. Is CO₂ used in Parliament House? If so, can you please detail what it is used for, the name of the company that maintains this equipment, the dates that CO₂ has been delivered to Parliament House for the financial year to date and the cost of CO₂ for the financial year to date?
2. What quantity of the CO₂ used at Parliament House escapes into the atmosphere in any given year? Does this vary? How are CO₂ emissions from Parliament House monitored or measured?

Answer

1. CO₂ is used in some maintenance activities—to control the pH level of water in the swimming pool and Forecourt water feature. BOC Gases delivers CO₂ on a fortnightly basis (starting, in this financial year, on 5 July 2011). Cost for the financial year to 2 March 2012 is \$4570.81 (ex-GST).
2. The quantity of CO₂ used at Parliament House for the first 8 months of 2011–12 is 2,320 kg. During the process to control the pH level of water in the swimming pool and Forecourt water feature, CO₂ is converted to carbonic acid and, as part of the process, very tiny amounts of CO₂ are thought to enter the atmosphere. The amount of CO₂ entering the atmosphere is not measurable and would vary slightly each year, in line with the pH control required.

CO₂ emissions from Parliament House are monitored and measured through the metering of natural gas and diesel consumption; and from invoice records of other fuels and gases purchased for maintenance activities.