

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2007-2008, 21-22 May 2007



Question: PM 77 & PM 78

Outcome 1, Output 4.5

Topic: Water consumption Kirribilli House

Hansard: F&PA 91 & 92

Senator Evans asked:

[PM 77] Are we able to find the figure then for what we got charged—for what level of water consumption we got charged?

Ms Hazell—No. I think we need to take that on notice.

[PM 78] It was for 2005-06, so I presume this question of the bill got settled some time ago, did it?

Ms Hazell—Yes.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—When was it settled?

Ms Hazell—I would have to take on notice when we paid the bill.

Senator CHRIS EVANS—But it was not in recent months?

Ms Hazell—No.

Answer:

The department was charged for water consumption of 2,882 kilolitres at Kirribilli House for the period 7 July 2005 to 6 July 2006 and not for 6,414 kilolitres as stated in evidence at Senate Estimates on 22 May 2007. The figure of 6,414 kilolitres was based on incorrect information provided by Sydney Water in March 2007.

The total charged for the 12 months was \$4,400.95, which included a charge of \$1,351.35 for the quarter ending 10 April 2006 (856 kilolitres) which was paid on 2 May 2006. This payment was based on actual usage and is unrelated to the incorrect data referred to above.