

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee —Budget Estimates May 2009

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Electricity costs

Question P5, Hansard reference F&PA 22–23

Date for the return of answer: 10 July 2009

Senator BERNARDI—Is there any provision in the contract for the introduction of an ETS and how that might affect electricity pricing?

...

Mr Nakkan—There has been an estimated forecast. I do not have that information with me but I can obtain it.

...

Senator BERNARDI—Would you be able to provide that to me, please?

...

Senator BERNARDI—By way of clarification, Mr Kenny, specifically I am interested in what you are expecting as an increase in electricity costs as a result of the ETS or if any increase has been built in there. I would like to get it before we get to the debate of the emissions trading scheme in the Senate—when ever that will be—hence my request as a courtesy to get it as soon as possible rather than by the fixed questions on notice period of 10 July. So I repeat that to you, Mr Thompson: if it is possible to get it in the next three or four days then it would be most advantageous.

Answer

- 1 There is no provision in the contract for the introduction of an ETS.
- 2 Treasury modelling reported via the Department of Climate Change fact sheet (December 2008) predicted a cost of \$23 per tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) for energy producers.
- 3 Parliament House is responsible for the production of approximately 20,000 tonnes of CO₂ through the consumption of electricity. At \$23/t, this would add around \$460,000 to our electricity costs when based on 2007–08 consumption.