

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2010

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary Portfolio, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Buildings' energy efficiency**

Question: **P 18**

Written: **Senator Birmingham**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Please list every building occupied by the Department.

For each building:

- Has an energy efficiency audit been undertaken? If so, what rating was achieved and what action has been taken to improve energy efficiency as a result of any audit undertaken?

Answer

1 Parliament House is the only building occupied by the Department of Parliamentary Services (**DPS**) (apart from a small number of staff temporarily based in accommodation on National Circuit).

2 In 2008, DPS engaged Parsons Brinkerhoff to undertake a Level 2 Energy Audit of the building. The final report was received in April 2009.

3 A NABERS Office energy rating, being a deliverable of the audit, was not able to be determined. The Parsons Brinkerhoff report detailed a number of reasons that a rating could not be given. In summary, the report advised that Parliament House does not meet the rating criteria for a typical office building and that the electrical sub metering is not adequate to meet the rating requirements.

4 As a result of 2008 energy audit, the following actions have been taken to improve energy efficiency at Parliament House.

- (a) An implementation plan was developed to progress recommendations from the energy audit, prioritising new or existing projects and measures aimed at reducing energy.
- (b) The following energy audit recommendations are progressing or completed.
 - (i) Replacement of the low-load chillers with more energy-efficient equipment.
 - (ii) Assessing the feasibility of implementing on-site tri-generation.
 - (iii) Upgrade of carpark lighting with energy-efficient globes.
 - (iv) Refurbishment of kitchens with more energy-efficient equipment.

- (v) Reduction in IT equipment by Server virtualisation for the main computer room.
 - (vi) Removal of obsolete boiling water units and installation of energy-efficient units in offices, suites and lunch rooms.
 - (vii) Replacement of the compressed air system with more energy-efficient equipment.
- (c) Energy audit recommendations of which we plan to commence implementation in 2010–11 include:
- (i) upgrade of the building and tenant electrical sub-metering system—required for a NABERS Office rating;
 - (ii) upgrade of office lighting with more efficient globes and control; and
 - (iii) replacement of building fan and pump motors and variable-speed drives (**VSDs**) with more efficient type.

5 Additional action taken by DPS to reduce energy that was not part of the audit recommendations.

- (a) Initiation of trials of solar panels (30 kW) and solar hot water—design stage completed.
- (b) Uninterruptable Power Supply (**UPS**) and battery replacement with more energy-efficient type.
- (c) Decommissioning of central waste system.