

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**

Budget Estimates Hearing 24 May-3rd June 2010

**Question: PM75**

**Topic: Buildings' energy efficiency**

**Type of Question: Written**

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

**Number of pages: 3**

**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:**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet occupies the following buildings:

- 1 National Circuit, Barton, ACT;
- Level 24, 6 O'Connell Street, Sydney, NSW (COAG Reform Council Secretariat); and
- Only recently commenced occupancy of parts of Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT (CHOGM Secretariat and Information Commissioner Designate staff.)

The department's primary office building is at 1 National Circuit, Barton. Two energy audits under the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) have been undertaken since the department moved into the building in February 2007. The initial post occupancy audit undertaken in August 2008 achieved an NABERS whole of building rating of 4 stars.

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During 2008-09 the Department undertook the following cost effective energy initiatives:

- Installed new computers which are 10% more energy efficient than previous models.
- Introduced after hour light sensors in all work areas so only lights surrounding areas with activity are activated.
- Installed light switches in all the breakout areas so that ceiling lights can be turned off when not required.
- Worked with the building owner to implement detailed energy reporting by zones to identify and address any anomalies.
- Virtualised IT servers, reducing the number of servers the department operates and thus power usage.

These energy saving efficiencies saw tenant electricity consumption decrease in 2008-09 by 7.19% over the previous year even though staff numbers increased.

A second energy efficiency audit undertaken in December 2009 achieved an improved NABERS whole of building rating of 4 ½ stars.

The COAG Reform Council Secretariat is located on Level 24, 6 O'Connell Street (Norwich House), Sydney. The base building achieved a 3 ½ star NABERS energy rating in May 2010. The building manager of Norwich House has advised that the following items have been recommended to improve the NABERS rating:

- Provision of separate metering in car park and common area lighting (already completed).
- Provision of separate heating/ventilation/cooling system in retail areas.
- Upgrade mechanical services and Building Management System.

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The CHOGM Secretariat and Information Commissioner Designate are currently located at Old Parliament House. Old Parliament House has not had an energy efficiency audit undertaken.