

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission
Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio
Topic: Electricity Usage

Senator: McKenzie

Question reference number: 139

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 2

Question:

1. For the financial year 2011-12, how many kilowatt hour of electricity did the department consume? What was the total cost?
2. What does this cost work out to per employee? What increases in electricity costs has the Department experienced since the introduction of the carbon tax?
3. How has this changed the Department's spending pattern? What programs or services have been cut to meet the increased costs?
4. What measures is the Department taking to reduce this electricity expenditure? When did these commence? What impact have they had?

Answer:

1. For the financial year 2011-12, 342,984 kilowatt hour of electricity was consumed by the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) within its tenancies. The total cost was \$85,281.96 including GST.
2. The cost per employee was \$308 inclusive of GST. There has been no increase in electricity costs as the carbon tax was implemented from 1 July 2012. However, from 1 July 2012, the electricity costs have increased by approximately 13%
3. The APSC operates within a balanced budget and adjusts spending across its activities as required to, wherever possible, sustain the core business as usual activities and provide some capacity to respond to changes in priorities or emerging issues.

4. During the 2011-12 financial year, The APSC encouraged activities directed towards improving energy management and environmental practices such as purchasing whitegoods and office equipment that have water- and energy-efficient features, including sleep modes. The APSC also consolidated office accommodation in May and June 2012 which reduced energy consumption as a result. It is not clear yet how much impact the changes have made to the APSC.