

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**Budget Estimates Hearing – October 2012**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

**Program 1:** Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

**Outcome 1:** The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

**Topic:** Electricity Usage

**Senator:** McKenzie

**Question reference number:** PM139

**Type of Question:** Written

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

**Number of Pages:** 1

For the financial year 2011-2012, how many kilowatt hour of electricity did the department consume? What was the total cost?

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?

How has this changed the Department's spending pattern? What programs or services have been cut to meet the increased costs?

What measures is the Department taking to reduce its electricity expenditure? When did these commence? What impact have they had?

**Answer:**

1,068,073 KWH; \$158,793.64

\$813.63\* per employee (FTE); 32% increase in average electricity costs per unit from 1 July to 30 September 2012 compared with the period 1 July to 30 September 2011 (unit costs). \* this covers total electricity costs for both heritage listed official properties and residences of Their Excellencies. No itemised electricity costs are available for office space only.

No change, nil

The Office is strongly committed to reducing carbon pollution by improving energy efficiency at both properties. Electricity usage is carefully monitored to track spikes in usage and facilitate consumption reductions where possible. Energy efficient and LED lamps have been installed in various locations.