

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0661) PROGRAM – 4.3: Offshore Asylum Seeker Management

Senator Hanson-Young (written) asked:

If the Department is planning to use increased desalination to meet demands for fresh water, given that the current desalination plants consume one-third of Nauru's power bills, and in drought Nauruans ordinarily need to double that consumption at least, where will the power come from and how is that feasible?

Answer:

The Nauru Government has advised that the desalination plants consume 3% of the total power generated by their power plants when operating at full capacity. There is sufficient capacity available to power additional desalination plants if required.