

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing
22 October 2015

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: ICT Sustainability Plan

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 95)

QUESTION No.: SI-34

Senator KIM CARR: The ICT sustainability plan, which was implemented in 2010, sets a target of 100 per cent government owned and purchased general use office paper to be from recycled content from 1 July 2015. How well has that plan gone?

Mr Chesworth: The Department of the Environment is responsible for that plan. We understand the plan has lapsed and is no longer active.

Senator KIM CARR: Can you tell me why that is? Have you had any advice on that?

Mr Chesworth: It is something the Department of the Environment would have to respond to.

Senator KIM CARR: So you had no input into that?

Mr Chesworth: Not that I recall.

Senator KIM CARR: I just find it odd. The Commonwealth puts \$9.5 million into the development of a de-inking facility for recycled paper, has a policy of 100 per cent recycled paper, and then we go off and close the program down. You did not have any say over that whatsoever? You were not consulted? You were not asked in any way?

Mr Chesworth: I do not know if the program was closed; I think it lapsed.

Senator KIM CARR: I see. Was there any consultation about maintaining the program?

Mr Chesworth: I am not sure. I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) has implemented this policy and since July 2015 committed to purchasing general use office paper from 100 per cent recycled content.

Questions on the ICT sustainability plan 2010-15 are best directed to the Department of Environment.