

APPENDIX I ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Under section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act), Finance is required to report on its contribution to ecologically sustainable development (ESD) and other environmental matters.

Finance has not yet reviewed the application of the EPBC Act in respect to legislation that the Department overlooks. Finance is waiting for the guidelines from the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Finance has recorded energy savings over the last two years. In the *Energy Use in Commonwealth Operations—Report for 1999–2000*, the Department of Industry Science and Resources (DISR) shows that Finance decreased its energy usage by 32.2 per cent from the previous year. The DISR report clarified the 32.2 per cent decrease was a result of “a number of lease terminations for high energy use buildings”.

Finance took other practical steps to reduce energy consumption in its main tenancies.

In accordance with 516A(6)(d), these included:

- zone-controlled lighting for after hours use;
- use of energy efficient lighting tubes;
- switching off office machines and computers at night and when not in use;
- John Gorton Building’s office layout and light wells help utilise natural light;
- purchase/leasing of ‘Energy Star’ rated office machines and equipment is encouraged, as are machines with ‘power save’ features.

Finance engages in a number of recycling activities including paper and cardboard, printer cartridges, plastics, metals and glass. Wherever practical, fit-out building materials, furniture, stores and stationery items are also recycled.

Finance aims to further increase its efficiency in using energy resources. In accordance with Government policy, Finance has undertaken to develop and implement an Environment Management System (to comply with Australian Standard ISO 14001) in at least one major site by December 2003.

NON-DEFENCE PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

Finance addresses the requirements of the EPBC Act as part of our due diligence process in our development and divestment projects. In this way, we have addressed the requirements of the Act before any contractor comes onto a site or we sell a property. The construction contracts that Finance uses contain generic clauses requiring contractors to meet Commonwealth and State and Territory environmental requirements. Finance is reviewing the need to include a specific clause in our contracts to address the EPBC Act.