

Question on Notice

No. 1505

Asked on 28 October 2008

Mr Langbroek asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

QUESTION:

Will he provide details of all high priority maintenance for all schools in Far North Queensland highlighted in QBuild's maintenance assessment reports of schools in September last year, that has not yet been completed (listed separately by school)?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA) engages QBuild to assess the condition of all school facilities annually. The QBuild assessor provides school principals with a list of high priority maintenance issues at the time of the exit interview. Principals are required to address these maintenance tasks as a matter of urgency and within a maximum period of 30 days.

I am not aware of any schools that have not addressed these issues or do not have works already underway.

I have asked Regional Executive Directors to monitor the progress of schools in their areas to ensure these necessary works are being undertaken.

Priority will be given in the department's 2008/2009 audit schedule to these activities as an added safeguard to ensure that principals continue to address these matters as a priority.

Total maintenance expenditure in Far North Queensland schools in 2007-08 was \$6.4M and \$9.8M is allocated in 2008-2009.

Each school is allocated a budget for maintenance work and regional contingency funds are available to address work that exceeds the school's budget. In circumstances where the school budget allocation or the regional contingency is not sufficient to address high priority maintenance works identified by the QBuild condition assessment, additional funding may be sought from the department.

Annual condition assessments are conducted in schools throughout the year with a report provided to each school within 30 days of completion of the assessment. All reports are completed by February each year to inform the future year's maintenance program.

A central record of the completion of individual high priority maintenance tasks is not maintained by the department.