

## Question on Notice

No. 417

Asked on 13 March 2008

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

QUESTION: What is the Queensland Government doing to support and encourage environmentally sustainable practice in our State Schools?

ANSWER:

The recent water crisis in Queensland underlines the importance of being environmentally responsible with our limited natural resources. The Bligh Government is tackling climate change across Government so our environment can be sustained for communities of the future.

In response to the drought, we have invested around \$13m to retrofit taps, showers, toilets and swimming pools. This work has allowed our school's water efficiency to be increased substantially. My department will continue to work with schools to identify ways to further decrease water use.

All state schools are required to implement strategies and actions, in partnership with the community and within the school, to reduce their ecological footprint. To support schools in meeting this challenge, I recently launched the Statement on Sustainability for All Queensland Schools – *Enough for all forever*.

In the Member for Springwood's own electorate, both Chatswood Hills and Kimberly Park State schools are members of the Keep Australia Beautiful Green and Healthy Schools Awards program. My Department is a foundation sponsor of the program, which aims at a whole-of-school approach to environmental sustainability through reward and recognition.

This year, in conjunction with Minister Wilson I launched the EnergyWise Schools Program which will assist our state schools to be more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

The Queensland Environmentally Sustainable School Initiative supports a network of Queensland schools through sustainability professional development and training, environmental audits, curriculum planning and school community education.

Education Queensland also operate 25 Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres across the state who work with our schools to improve energy efficiency, waste minimisation, water conservation and biodiversity through customised programs to over 90 000 students a year.