

Question on Notice

No. 1751

Asked on 11 November 2009

Mr Wettenhall asked the Minister for Education and Training (Mr Wilson)—

QUESTION:

With reference to schools in the Barron River Electorate—

Will the Minister advise which schools have benefited to date from the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative and which schools will benefit from future rounds of this program?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and his interest in the State Schools of Tomorrow (SSOT) program in his electorate

The Tomorrow's Schools package was announced by the Queensland Government in the 2006–07 Budget and allocates a record amount for modernising and renewing school facilities across Queensland. The package includes:

- \$850 million for the SSOT five-year (2006–07 to 2010–11) capital works program for state schools
- \$50 million for the School Community Development Fund for all state school communities for small projects to improve a school's learning environment

Through the School Community Development Fund schools in the electorate of Barron River received \$458,300 in grants to fund minor works projects.

The \$850 million SSOT initiative is comprised of two rounds.

Round one consists of four projects valued at \$390.3 million which are delivering new and substantially refurbished facilities to clusters of schools located at Innisfail, Inala, Eastern Ipswich and Brisbane Bayside, creating more than an estimated 3,000 jobs during construction.

Round two includes \$90 million for school (external finishes) maintenance projects \$30 million for housing maintenance, \$200 million for the Classroom Renewal program (renewal of classrooms, libraries, computer rooms and science rooms at hundreds of schools across the State) and a \$50 million capital grant for the non-state sector in support of facilities for disengaged youth.

Through the School External Finishes Upgrade program, schools in the electorate of Barron River are to receive \$663,945 over the 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years to address external maintenance works such as painting, repairs and replacement of roofs, gutters, verandahs and stairs.

Through the SSOT Round two Classroom renewal program, 305 state schools across the State will received renewal funding creating an estimated 1,540 jobs during construction.

In total there are 1,820 learning areas receiving upgrades in 305 schools including 25 trial projects in 17 schools across Queensland.

I have been advised by the Department that through the SSOT Round two Classroom renewal program:

Trinity Beach State School has received upgrades to a primary block completed during the trial stage of the program at a cost of \$135,334 and that Smithfield State High School is approved to have four science laboratories upgraded with a budget of \$1,273,495. Planning has commenced and completion of the project is scheduled for June 2010.