

Question on Notice

No. 1837

Asked on 24 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what schools in the electorate of Toowoomba North have benefitted or will benefit from the State Schools of Tomorrow program, indicating what benefits apply to each school in terms of the nature and extent of such projects and costs thereof?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and his interest in the Government's 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 state school communities for small projects to improve a school's learning environment.

Through the School Community Development Fund schools in the electorate of Toowoomba North received \$533,700 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 will deliver 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 to reduce the school (external finishes) maintenance backlog, \$30 million to reduce the housing maintenance backlog, \$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 Toowoomba North are set to receive \$529,660 over the 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years to address external maintenance works such as painting, repairs and replacement of roofs and gutters, verandahs and stairs.

In the electorate of Toowoomba North, under the SSOT, Round two Classroom Renewal Program, Highfields and Toowoomba East State Schools have been approved to have eight minor classroom upgrades with a budget of \$307,885 each and Toowoomba State High School has been approved three science upgrades with a budget of \$758,718.

The detailed planning for these projects is scheduled to occur this financial year with construction of the upgraded facilities due for completion in the 2010–11 financial year.

In addition, trial projects at Toowoomba East State School for the upgrade of computer rooms at a cost of \$434,421 and the upgrade to the library at Toowoomba State High School at a cost of \$767,107 are now complete.

Round two Classroom renewal projects in the three schools across the Toowoomba North electorate total more than \$2.57 million.

Through the \$200 million SSOT Round two Classroom renewal program, 305 state schools will receive renewal funding across the state creating an estimated 1,540 jobs during construction.

In total there are 1,820 learning areas being upgraded including 25 trial projects in 17 schools across Queensland.