

Question on Notice
No. 1327
Asked on 5 August 2010

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide an update on the rollout of the Building the Education Revolution buildings in the Electorate of Toowoomba North?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and his interest in the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

I have been advised by the Department that as part of the BER program the Australian Government approved 42 projects totalling over \$21 million for state schools in the Toowoomba North Electorate.

This includes \$18.449 million allocated for 17 projects in eight state primary schools and one special school under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) element of the BER program, which will facilitate the construction of libraries, halls and other large scale infrastructure.

Work on P21 projects in the Toowoomba North Electorate are progressing well. Harlaxton State School celebrated the opening of their new multi-purpose hall and resource centre on the 19 April 2010. Other schools to celebrate openings were: Highfields State School on 23 July 2010, Newtown State School on 18 June 2010 and Rockville State School on 24 May 2010.

The groundwork is being prepared for slabs to be poured for the Multipurpose Hall and Resource Centre projects at Fairview Heights State School and Toowoomba East State School. Forecast completion is 30 January 2011 and 15 February 2011 respectively.

Toowoomba North State School commenced work in August 2010 on the covered outdoor learning area and Resource Centre and Toowoomba West Special School has awarded a contract, with earthworks commencing on the Multipurpose Hall at the end of August 2010 with forecast completion by 30 March 2011.

Wilsonton State School has the slab poured for both the Multipurpose Hall and Resource Centre with forecast completion in February 2011.

As part of the National School Pride (NSP) element, 24 projects in 10 schools with a total value of \$1.425 million have been approved for a range of small scale refurbishment and renewal projects.

Work on NSP projects has been completed at Fairview Heights State School, Harlaxton State School, Highfields State School, Newtown State School, Rockville State School, Toowoomba East State School, Toowoomba State High School and Toowoomba West Special School.

Work on the NSP projects at Toowoomba North State School are approximately 30% complete, with forecast completion in October 2010. Wilsonton State School has completed the classroom refresh with the senior learning space and interactive whiteboard project due for completion by 30 September 2010.

The Australian Government has also approved a \$1.97 million through the Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools (SLC) element for the Toowoomba Nihongo Centre to be constructed at Toowoomba State High. This project is under construction with forecast completion by the end of September 2010.

The BER program is delivering close to \$2.1 billion across over 4,500 infrastructure projects in more than 1,200 Queensland state schools. The whole Toowoomba community is reaping the benefits from this BER program which is delivering real work for Queensland businesses, real jobs for locals and modern facilities for our schools.

The Queensland Government is dedicated to delivering best-practice learning supported by world-class facilities. BER combined with our \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow program and other capital works means \$10 million is being spent on Queensland schools every day. The Bligh Government is committed to achieving the maximum value for every dollar spent on these projects and three independent reports have confirmed we are achieving this.

The LNP has promised to cut these major infrastructure programs, with no new programs in their place. The LNP don't have plan for education in Queensland and don't believe Queensland kids should be engaged and learning in modern start of the art facilities.