

Question on Notice

No. 33

Asked on 16 February 2011

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many schools in the Ipswich West Electorate were affected by the recent flood and what recovery work is being undertaken to restore them to their previous condition?

ANSWER:

While this question was asked of the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP, Minister for Education and Training, due to recent changes in Ministerial responsibility I am now the Minister responsible for this matter and therefore provide this response. I thank the Member for his question and for his ongoing support of schools and teachers in his electorate.

The worst flooding in Queensland's history occurred in December 2010 and January 2011 and the Bligh Government is now focussed on rebuilding Queensland communities. Schools are a vital part of every community and have to be functioning for people's lives to return to normal.

The Queensland Government believes effective planning and management of emergencies helps minimise trauma and distress to those within schools and workplaces, and allows teaching and learning to be maintained or resumed as a priority.

In conjunction with QBuild and school parent and citizens associations, the Department of Education and Training (DET) has worked quickly to ensure all students, staff and volunteers who work or participate in DET schools and early childhood education and care centres are in a safe and supportive environment. Ninety-two schools across the State were affected by the floods, and 89 of those were able to open for classes on day 1 of the 2011 school year. Milton State School has also since re-opened. Students of the other schools have been temporarily relocated to nearby unaffected schools while major rebuilding is undertaken.

I have been advised by DET that the following four schools in the electorate of Ipswich West were affected by the recent flood:

- Brassall State School (SS)
- Fernvale State School (SS)
- Ipswich State High School (SHS)
- Minden State School (SS)

Brassall SS suffered significant inundation across the whole site, with the hall and administration building most severely affected. Four modular buildings suffered damage and had to be replaced. Flood recovery works across the entire school include new painting, flooring and joinery to the buildings affected. Testing and replacement of electrical and data infrastructure has occurred where necessary. The school oval has been top dressed and seeded to remove undulations caused by the flowing water. It is anticipated all works will be completed by 27 March 2011. Year 6 and 7 students have temporarily relocated to Ipswich SHS until work on their classrooms is complete and modular buildings have been installed to accommodate students.

Fernvale SS suffered significant inundation to 15 classrooms located in K, C and F Blocks. Flood recovery works included repainting, replacement of joinery, new flooring and replacement of faulty electrical and data outlets. Due to delays in the supply of bi-fold concertina doors, the recovery works are expected to be fully completed by 31 March 2011.

Ipswich SHS suffered significant inundation to the manual arts block, library archive room, groundsman machinery shed and swimming pool area. The electrical transformer and main switchboard have been replaced. New wall linings, flooring, joinery and replacement workshop equipment within the Manual Arts building are required. It is expected the recovery works will be fully completed by 22 April 2011.

Minden SS received moderate inundation of the site, causing damage to perimeter fencing, playgrounds and sand pits. Water pumps and air conditioning units located on the ground were replaced. No structural building damage was recorded. The current completion date for recovery works is 15 March 2011.