

Question on Notice

No. 609

Asked on 10 May 2011

Dr Flegg asked The Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr Dick)

QUESTION:

With reference to the environmental footprint of Education Queensland schools—
How much water and how much electricity was used in 2010 and what were the corresponding amounts used in 2006 (listed separately by education district or individual schools if available)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I have been advised by the Department of Education and Training that Queensland schools are on track to meet the requirements of the whole-of-Government Strategic Energy Efficiency Policy for Government Buildings, even in the context of an expanding building portfolio.

The Department is implementing a range of sustainability measures to improve the environmental footprint of schools such as:

- The Solar and Energy Efficiency Program in Queensland state schools
- School Water Efficiency Program
- National Solar Schools Program
- 'Do The Right Thing Use The Right Bin' with the Department of Environment and Resource Management
- Earth Smart Science Program in Primary Schools – primary schools will be encouraged to develop a School Environmental Management Plan which includes water, energy, waste and biodiversity data for each school
- a range of online curriculum materials on sustainability have been developed to support teachers in the classroom and foster an understanding of environmental conservation through behaviour change with students
- Ensuring new school infrastructure is built to best-practice environmental standards, including delivering Green Star certified schools through the South East Queensland Public Private Partnership Program.

The environmental footprint for water consumption and energy consumption is provided to the Department by schools on a financial year basis. The following table summarises consumption of water and energy by schools by region for the years requested:

Education Region	Financial Year	Water ML	Electricity GWh
Central Queensland	2005-06	1033	25.9
	2009-10	932	25.9
Darling Downs South West	2005-06	548	17.1
	2009-10	424	17.0
Far North Queensland	2005-06	361	19.7
	2009-10	320	21.0
Metropolitan	2005-06	1076	44.3

	2009-10	582	44.5
North Coast	2005-06	935	29.7
	2009-10	630	29.2
North Queensland	2005-06	1350	20.5
	2009-10	969	20.9
South East	2005-06	891	30.4
	2009-10	410	32.2

The data provided above takes into consideration the opening of new schools and closure of other schools since the 2005-06 year. The Department has opened 25 new schools since the start of 2005, and relocated a further five schools in the same period. The floor area in schools has increased by approximately 10 per cent from 2005-06 to 2009-10.

A total of 485,798 full-time students were enrolled in Queensland state schools in August 2010. Enrolments in Queensland state schools continue to increase. From 2006 to 2010 enrolments experienced an overall growth of 6.8 per cent. This growth is partly attributable to the Bligh Government's introduction of the universally available Prep Year.