

Question on Notice
No. 136
Asked on 6 March 2014

Mr Pitt asked the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the projected growth in population in Queensland in coming years and the need to maintain relative levels of services—

Will the Minister advise (a) the number of classrooms/learning areas available for use in state schools in Queensland in 2014, (b) the projected number of classrooms/learning areas expected to be available for use in 2015, (c) the projected number of classrooms/learning areas expected to be available for use in 2016 and (d) the projected number of classrooms/learning areas expected to be available for use in 2017?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I have been advised by my Department that in respect to part (a) of your question, Queensland's state school infrastructure asset base in 2014 is spread across urban, rural and remote locations consisting of more over 16,000 buildings and 31,000 classrooms.

With regards to projections of the number of classrooms/learning spaces in future years (parts b, c, and d of your question), these are not available as Capital Works Programs for the out-years are yet to be formulated and approved.

Classroom requirements are planned in line with future forecasts. The actual number of classrooms built alters to reflect changes in the population. In new schools this may mean a delay or bring forward of a construction stage for a particular school.

For classroom growth in existing schools, planned permanent or modular classrooms may also be delayed or brought forward in response to local changes. The delivery of modular and hire classrooms provides the most immediate response to emergent local fluctuations. The actual number of enrolments in both the lead up to school year end and the number of enrolments on Day 8 of the new school year are used to finalise delivery plans.

On average over 160 new classrooms per year open for the first day of school within existing schools to increase capacity in line with the growing school population.