

Question on Notice

No. 497

Asked on 4 June 2015

DR MCVEIGH asked the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games (Hon K Jones) –

QUESTION

With reference to the former LNP Government's fully funded and costed allocation of \$150,000 made towards providing new toilet facilities for the students at the Algester State School in the Algester Electorate (funding not contingent on Strong Choices program) –

Will this allocation proceed under a Labor Government?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I am advised by the Department that there was no commitment of funding by the former LNP Government through the capital works program for this project. Further, I am advised that Infrastructure Services have not viewed any plans and therefore have not been able to cost the project to confirm the cost estimate.

However, the Honourable Member would be aware that capital funding for the 2015/16 year has been placed under considerable pressure owing to the previous LNP government's decision to allocate more than a third of the capital budget to pay down a significant component of the Public Private Partnership that they entered into – I am advised this is contrary to the advice of the Department of Education.

This commitment of more than \$100 million from the capital works budget for 2015/16 has placed significant constraint on other new capital works in the upcoming financial year for projects like this one.

I can further advise that the recently announced federal budget includes up to a \$6 billion reduction in funding for all Queensland schools once again placing significant pressure on school funding.

I can assure the Honourable Member that while his leader has been silent on the Abbott Government cuts to Queensland schools, I will continue to lobby the Federal Minister for Education to stop these cuts and I urge the Honourable Member to do the same.

I can assure the Honourable Member that the Local Member Leeanne Enoch, a strong advocate for state schools, is in regular contact with me regarding schools in her electorate.

I would be happy to receive any documentation from the member to substantiate the details in his question that are contrary to the advice I have received from the Department.