

Question on Notice

No. 499

Asked on 3 April 2019

MR J BLEIJIE ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to Parents and Citizens in the Kawana Electorate fundraising to air-condition state school classrooms—

Will the Minister advise if the Government will extend the Cooler School Program to include Sunshine Coast state schools or better still copy the LNP Policy and directly fund 100 per cent of all air conditioning at all Sunshine Coast state school classrooms?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government has a policy of air conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland. These areas are known as the Cooler Schools Zones.

Outside the Cooler Schools Zones, the Department of Education may provide air conditioning on a case-by-case basis in response to specific issues, such as medical conditions or environments where equipment or acoustic measures require the use of air conditioning, for example, music practice rooms requiring closed doors and windows.

The decision to fund the installation and running of air conditioners outside the Cooler Schools Zones are matters for prioritisation at the school level. Many schools outside the Cooler Schools Zones have elected to air condition some, or all, classroom spaces, either through funding provided by the Parents and Citizens' Associations (P&Cs) or by using school funding.

In making this decision, schools take into account the ongoing electricity cost of operating air conditioners, and may plan to help mitigate this cost in a number of ways, including installing energy-efficient systems or using the air conditioners at certain times of the day.

I acknowledge the hard work that P&Cs undertake in support of their local schools.