

Question on Notice
No. 837
Asked on 15 June 2023

MR B MICKELBERG ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail for the period 14 February 2015 to 15 June 2023, any state school hall projects, where air conditioning has been installed as part of government funded works?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education delivers halls, including multi-purpose halls and performing arts centres, which may contain ancillary spaces required to deliver the curriculum.

The department has specific guidelines for air conditioning in Queensland schools which informs which room types are eligible for air conditioning. These guidelines take into account school geographical location and the use of individual spaces.

The eligible spaces are linked to usage and generally include spaces which are typically used as learning areas. The eligible spaces in halls and performing arts centres are usually classrooms, kinesiology rooms, staff rooms and specialist learning spaces.

As part of the Cooler Cleaner Schools Program, school halls are not considered eligible spaces for air conditioning. Halls are generally large volume spaces which take a lot of time and energy to heat or cool and consequently are expensive to run and maintain. In general, halls are cooled using large ceiling fans to provide air flow and ventilation.

There have been circumstances where halls have been air conditioned by the department to meet acoustic, noise or functionality purposes. For example, the hall at Murgon State High School was air conditioned to meet noise and acoustic requirements, as it is also the designated Performing Arts area for the school.

Schools may choose to install air conditioning in halls using school funds or funds raised through a Parents and Citizens' Association. As such, the department does not have a record of all schools that have air conditioning installed in their halls.