



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Mr Davis MLA:

In relation to:

Capital Works

Regarding capital development in ACT Public Schools found on budget page 22,

- a. Can you inform the committee of the steps taken to consider climate adaptation in our schools?
- b. What adaptations have been made to ACT schools since the 19/20 summer bushfires to prevent bushfire smoke from being in classrooms?
- c. What involvement do school communities have in any significant development at ACT public schools such as the works planned at Narrabundah College?

Minister Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- a. New and expanded schools are designed to respond to the changing climate and extreme temperatures. This is achieved through infrastructure design including: solar passive orientation, high levels of insulation, double glazing, and external shading.

Programs to improve the resilience of existing school buildings to extreme temperatures include:

- Roof Replacement Program – two successive programs totalling \$24.2 million over six years to replace aged, uninsulated roofs with new roof systems incorporating high levels of insulation.
- Energy Efficient Heating Systems Renewal Program - in addition to renewal of aged heating systems the program includes improvements to draughtproofing, insulation window upgrades and modernisation of ventilation systems. Where cost effective, the modernisation of heating systems includes cooling capacity.
- Tree Planting Program – from 2018-19 to 2019-20, \$0.1 million invested annually to provide future shade to buildings, reduce the impact of heat banking surfaces and provide cool shade to students and playgrounds.
- Draughtproofing Program – annual program to prevent the ingress of external air and air pollutants into classrooms and reduce heating and cooling costs.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. 35 ECI

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- Heat Mitigation Program – 2017-18 to 2019-20, included initiatives to reduce the impact of summer heat on classroom comfort. The program focused on spaces identified by schools as experiencing extreme temperatures and included mechanical cooling via the air conditioning systems, energy efficient ceiling fans and heat rejecting glazing treatments.
 - Building Tuning Program – annual program to target emission reductions with benefits for student and staff comfort. Initiatives include airlocks, double glazing projects, installation of dampers in evaporative coolers to prevent air flow from and into classrooms, minor upgrades to mechanical plant and insulation to ceilings
- b. The Education Directorate has implemented a number of existing infrastructure programs that impact indoor air quality. These include:
- Draught Proofing Program
 - Building Tuning Program
 - Installation of airlocks
 - Installation of CO2 sensors across 65 schools to enable monitoring of air quality – these are connected to control systems and can be manipulated to manage the ingress of outdoor air.
 - Our newest schools, including Evelyn Scott and Throsby (currently under construction) also have an air-tight membrane to exclude external temperatures and air pollutants including smoke.
- c. The Directorate engages with school communities, neighbours, partners and other stakeholders to inform the design and delivery of ACT Government policy and programs. Engagement strategies are developed for specific school infrastructure projects. This can include a range of face-to-face and online activities, including workshops, meetings, pop-up kiosks, one-on-one conversations, and online scrapbooks. For example, there were 29 consultation activities undertaken as part of the Narrabundah College modernisation, with over 1,000 pieces of feedback considered.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 24/03/21

By the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry MLA