



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by MR HANSON

Ref: Annual Report, Education Directorate, Workforce Profile

In relation to: Capital Works (AR p212)

Public Schools infrastructure Upgrades: 32 schools received "access upgrades and learning support upgrades" (AR p 212) in the 2020-21 financial year.

1. What are "learning support upgrades"? Please provide some specific examples of such upgrades, at specific schools.
2. How many schools still require (a) access, and (b) learning support upgrades?
3. Solar panels. In FOI briefing for Budget Estimates 19 October 2021, p 34 it was stated that "Sustainability improvements, including building system tuning, draft proofing, active transport and bush [sic] shelter construction and solar panel expansion" are part of PSIU.

But in response dated 1 November 2021 to QTON No. ECI4, solar panels are not mentioned.

- a) Are solar panels included in the 2021-22 budget?
- b) If not, why are they included in the PSIU briefing, and the Budget papers?
- c) If they are included, what impact are these costs having on PSIUs?
- d) What about big batteries? What is the budget?

MS BERRY MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. Learning support upgrades are infrastructure upgrades that enable accessibility and reasonable adjustments for students with disability that facilitates ensuring equal participation in education the same way as those without disability in accordance with policies and legislations. These upgrades provide support to all students broadly and encourage inclusive environments and practices in schools.

Examples:

Hawker College: recent accessibility modifications included the replacement of three existing wheelchair lifts to meet the requirements of a student's wheelchair and carer. Multiple doorways were widened and classrooms were upgraded to facilitate accessibility to learning environments.

UC High School Kaleen: Major building modifications of existing classrooms were undertaken to create a quiet space and a new sensory courtyard to accommodate transitioning students with additional needs.

2. Major learning support upgrades have been undertaken for the majority of schools and colleges. Reasonable adjustment specific to a student's individual requirements are assessed regularly by the Network Student Engagement Teams who work collaboratively with schools to support students as they transition through school.
3. It is recognised that Solar photovoltaic systems are key to mitigating energy costs for school and in providing electricity capacity for school facilities as they transition to zero emission operations.
 - a. Solar expansions are included in the 2021-22 budget.
 - b. N/A.
 - c. The budget allocation for solar expansions in the 2021-22 budget is \$400,000.
 - d. There is currently no allocation in the PSIU budget for big batteries.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date: 21/04/22

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