

**SCHOOLS — INTERNET UPGRADES**

*Statement by Minister for Education*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Education)** [1.21 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house that more Western Australian public schools are set to receive faster, better internet thanks to the Cook Labor government. We have recently announced upgrades to a further 200 schools, bringing the total to more than 700 schools since the project was announced last year. This will significantly increase teaching and learning opportunities for our staff and students. The boost will enable faster internet, better video conferencing capabilities and more reliable connections in all schools, particularly in remote and regional schools. It will also allow staff and students to participate in online classes, access additional online learning resources and work with their peers more effectively. Some schools may receive up to a 200 per cent uplift in bandwidth. Software upgrades will be carried out first, with bandwidth upgrades expected to be completed during 2024 and 2025. This additional capacity builds on massive public school bandwidth upgrades already delivered across WA, enabling schools that previously had limited bandwidth to now use technologies including high-definition multimedia content, as well as run simultaneous online learning and activities in a number of classrooms without lag. This is all about ensuring students and teachers in WA have access to the best learning environments and these major upgrades will help to provide that. This announcement backs in our \$189 million rollout of the new software platform Kaartdijin into Western Australia's 832 public schools by mid-2026. WA will be the first public education system in Australia to introduce the platform. The technology is expected to deliver significant time savings for school staff and eliminate the duplication of tasks. It is part of a raft of measures designed to reduce the amount of time that teachers and school staff spend on administrative and reporting tasks. I am sure schools will be pleased with these initiatives and the opportunities they present as our government continues its record investment into public education.