

ALLANSON PRIMARY SCHOOL — AIR CONDITIONING

1063. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I refer to the Allanson Primary School parents and citizens air conditioning issue.

- (1) Will the school be given permission to resume its building management works arrangement, which commenced on 25 January 2011, to install two reverse-cycle air conditioners?
- (2) If yes to (1), will the warranty of the structural buildings still be valid after the installation of these units?
- (3) Will Allanson Primary School be entitled to reimbursement for the units, as is the case for other Collie schools that installed units prior to the Department of Education's notice of 1 April 2011, given that the Allanson project was commenced but not completed prior to this notice?
- (4) Will the Department of Education reconsider its advice that it will not cover the higher electricity costs for the reverse-cycle units, given the savings that will accrue by reduced gas usage for heating in the winter; and, if not, why not?

Hon PETER COLLIER replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) The parents and citizens association is not required to fund the installation of air cooling. The contract to install evaporative air cooling to the Building the Education Revolution buildings at the school has been awarded. A pre-start meeting was held at the school on 9 November 2011, and installation commenced on 16 November and will be completed within two weeks. The school has indicated that it is happy with this arrangement.
- (2) The 12-month builder's defect period has now passed.
- (3) The project is funded from the Building the Education Revolution program, not from the school.
- (4) Schools are provided annually with a single line of funding for utilities. Schools that self fund installation of air-cooling systems do so on the understanding that utilities funding is based on the kilowatt usage rate for evaporative air cooling, consistent with the department's air-cooling policy. The utilities funding for Allanson Primary School will include both a gas allocation and an electricity allocation based on an evaporative air-cooling system. Allanson Primary School may use this single line of utilities funding in the way that best suits its local context.