

COMO SECONDARY COLLEGE

996. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Education:

I note that the South Perth/Como high school community has raised concerns for several years regarding the rundown facilities at Como Secondary College, which has seen a third of eligible students from the area go to alternative public schools outside the catchment area.

- (1) Will the minister commit to visiting Como Secondary College?
- (2) What is this government's commitment to pay more than lip service to that school's needs?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The Minister for Education has provided the following answer.

- (1) I visited Como Secondary College on Thursday, 7 September 2023, accompanied by Geoff Baker, MLA, the member for South Perth.
- (2) The Cook Labor government is delivering significant upgrades to our schools as part of our \$1.5 billion investment in public education capital works. This program of works is the largest investment in public education capital works in our state's history.

It builds upon our September 2019 announcement of our \$200 million school maintenance blitz program. A total of \$2.079 million of this funding was spent at Como Secondary College to address air conditioning systems, resurface playing surfaces, undertake toilet upgrades, roof replacements, structural upgrades and other minor works, and refresh classrooms.

All up, since 2017, the McGowan and Cook governments have invested \$4.57 million at Como Secondary College.

The member should note that the Department of Education's asset investment program for 2023–24 is also the largest of its kind in over a decade, at \$626.8 million.