

HALLS CREEK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL — OMBUDSMAN REVIEW

734. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the Minister for Education and Training:

I refer to the recent inquiry into Halls Creek District High School and note the finding that there was no indication of planning initiated by the regional office at the time it was confirmed in early 2020 that the Ombudsman's recommendation must be implemented.

- (1) Why did the Department of Education not implement the requisite planning after the Ombudsman had made recommendations so that regional office staff would have had the necessary guidance, direction and oversight within a compressed time frame?
- (2) Who ultimately was responsible for initiating that planning?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

- (1) The department has advised that although the regional office did undertake some planning, it was inadequate and did not take into account the impact of COVID-19. The department is strengthening processes to oversee the implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations.
- (2) The regional executive director was responsible for initiating the planning and the director general was accountable for implementing the Ombudsman's recommendations.