

NEWTON MOORE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — SOLAR PROGRAM FUNDING

8283. Mr M.P. Murray to the Minister representing the Minister for Education

I refer to the application for funding under the WA Solar Schools program that Newton Moore Senior High School in Bunbury was successfully granted, and ask:

- (a) can the Minister confirm that, after the school delayed the installation date to ensure students could sit National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests without interruptions, the WA Solar Schools program was cancelled and the funding was withdrawn;
- (b) will the contractor who purchased the equipment for Newton Moore Senior High School's solar program be reimbursed for purchases he made;
- (c) why has the Government awarded funding to a school, then withdrawn that money because the school delayed installation so that students were not disturbed whilst sitting exams; and
- (d) was there any stipulation in the funding application that set out timelines for installation; and
 - (i) if so, were successful applicants warned that funding would be withdrawn if they failed to install solar panels within that timeline?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

Public Utilities Office

- (a) Department of Finance records indicate that while quotes were obtained, no authorisation was given and no purchase order was issued against the funding that was available for the WA Solar Schools Program component of the Newton Moore Senior High School project. No funding was withdrawn. A Purchase Order was issued for the Commonwealth Government's National Solar Schools Program component of the project. I am advised that the solar panels funded through that program should be installed within the next few weeks.
- (b) No. The supplier acknowledges that it mistakenly ordered equipment for the WA Solar Schools Program part of the project even though a purchase order had not been issued.
- (c) See answer to (a)–(b).
- (d) There were no timelines associated with funding under the WA Solar Schools Program for Newton Moore Senior High School because no authorisation to award a contract had been given.
 - (i) Not applicable.