

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING (ROUND 2)

Department of Education

The Committee asked:

- 1) In 2019-20, did your agency receive a qualified audit or 'matter of significance' or an 'emphasis of matter' from the Auditor General
 - a) If so, outline the reason and your plan to remedy the issue by 2020-21?

Answer:

The Auditor General has issued a 'matter of significance' relating to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Report on the key performance indicators

The matter did not modify the Auditor General's opinion on the Authority's key performance indicators and related to the Authority's exemption on reporting the 'Average cost per enrolled student for National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)' key efficiency indicator

The Under Treasurer approved the exemption not to report the efficiency indicator on the basis that the 2020 NAPLAN did not proceed in May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No further action is required to remedy the issue for 2020-21.

The Department of Education had no qualified audit or 'matter of significance' or an 'emphasis of matter' from the Auditor General.

Minister's Initials



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The Committee asked:

2) With respect to the Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme

a) Have all separations been completed, and

Answer:

Yes

b) If not, when do you expect the remaining separations to occur?

Answer:

Not applicable

Minister's Initials



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Hon Tim Clifford MLC asked:

- 1) Which electricity providers are used to service the energy needs of WA public schools? Please provide a table with a breakdown for each, including length of contract

Answer: There are four suppliers (Synergy, Perth Energy, Alinta Energy and Clear Energy) currently on the Common Use Agreement (CUA), and all contracts are for two years. Schools located outside the South West Interconnected System are outside the scope of the CUA, and engage directly with other electricity providers (ie Horizon Power).

- a) What are the current annual costs of energy for WA public schools? Please provide a table with a breakdown for each, and

Answer: Data about electricity providers (and length of contract) is not held centrally and significant manual effort and time would be required to collect and consolidate the data from each school. The 2019 annual cost of energy for Western Australian public schools was \$41 503 000.

- b) What are the total carbon emissions generated by WA public schools? Please provide a table with a breakdown for each?

Answer: Data on total carbon emissions generated by Western Australian public schools is not held centrally and significant manual effort and time would be required to collect and consolidate the data from each school.

Minister's Initials



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Hon Tim Clifford MLC asked:

- 2) I refer to the \$1.5 billion set to be used for the refurbishment, construction and expansion of WA public schools, as highlighted on page 138 of Budget Paper No. 3. Economic and Fiscal Outlook.
- a) Will there be an energy efficiency component?

Answer:

While there is no specific item for an energy efficiency component in the Asset Investment Program, the Department of Education includes energy-efficient measures in the design of facilities. New facilities are designed to a four green star equivalent, which includes LEDs and, in new schools, solar panels.

On 2nd September 2020 the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for Energy announced the \$4 million Virtual Power Plan (VPP) pilot project. The WA recovery plan project will transfer ten West Australian schools into smart, green VPPs and promote a cleaner energy future.

The Minister also announced the \$5 million Solar Schools Program, delivered by the Department of Education and Horizon Power, to install rooftop solar systems at 30 regional public schools.

Minister's Initials



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Department of Education

Hon Alison Xamon MLC asked:

1) I refer to the WA State Budget 2020-21 page 370, Education, first para, 13 regarding the Aboriginal Girls Engagement Program:

a) Please provide some information about this program including:

i) Who will run the program;

Answer:

The delivery of the Aboriginal Girls Engagement Program is through multiple providers to enable programs to be student-centred and address the local place-based requirements of the student, school and community

ii) Where (at which schools and/or locations) is it anticipated the program will be available,

Answer:

The Department of Education is undertaking a procurement process to appoint a panel of service providers from 2022 to deliver ongoing engagement programs for Aboriginal girls and young women. Until the panel is in place, arrangements will be made with current providers to ensure continuity of services

iii) How will students be selected to participate; and

Answer:

Students are invited to self-nominate to participate in the program.

iv) How many students will you aim to engage in the program annually?

Answer:

In 2020, approximately 1 300 students are participating in the programs. As the Aboriginal Girls Engagement Program matures, it is expected these numbers will increase to approximately 1 450 students per annum

Minister's Initials

