

**Question on Notice**

**No. 205**

**Asked on 21 February 2007**

Mr Springborg asked the Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts (Mr Welford) —

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the Government's Cooler Schools Program—

When will the Government (a) complete the installation of air-conditioning units in all Queensland State schools within the Cooler Schools Zone and (b) extend the program to include Queensland State schools outside of the zone?

**ANSWER:**

I am pleased to advise the Member that more than 3700 classrooms across the state have been air-conditioned under the Cooler Schools program since 1998.

Since the Beattie Government came to office we have expanded the Cooler Schools zone, increased the subsidy to P&Cs and modified guidelines to give all schools in the zone the opportunity to benefit. The zone now extends from Bowen to Torres Strait in the north, south to include Gladstone, Biloela and Theodore and west to the Great Dividing Range.

Every State school in the Cooler Schools zone which has applied to air-condition eligible spaces has now benefited from the Government's initiative. I am pleased to advise that changes to guidelines for this final round proved highly successful. Subsidy assistance was increased to a maximum of 10:1 to further encourage disadvantaged schools to apply. This resulted in another 96 schools successfully applying for assistance and 550 additional classrooms being air-conditioned in 2006–07.

There are currently no plans to expand the Cooler Schools zone.