

Question on Notice

No. 310

Asked on 11 March 2008

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

QUESTION:

Considering all other government offices in Bundaberg are air-conditioned, will he advise

- (a) why no Bundaberg school is air-conditioned and
- (b) when air-conditioning will be installed in Bundaberg schools?

ANSWER:

- (a) The State has provided subsidy assistance to air condition schools in the Cooler Schools zone.

The original eligibility zone was established in 1996 to provide assistance to state and non-state schools north of Bowen.

In 1998, the Government extended the eligibility zone to include the areas north of latitude 20° and south of Bowen to include Gladstone, Biloela and Theodore, and west to the Great Divide.

Bundaberg is not located in the Cooler Schools zone and has therefore not been eligible for subsidy assistance under the Government's program.

- (b) Currently there is no plan to expand the Cooler Schools zone.

However, the Government provides all state schools with annual Minor Works and School Improvement Assistance grants which may be utilised, at the discretion of the school, for the installation of air conditioning.

School principals are encouraged to contact their local facilities account manager for information on possible passive cooling measures that could be considered or that might increase the efficiency of any future air conditioning undertaken by the community.