

09 JAN 2012

12/13825

**Kerrie Kahlon**

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**From:** [redacted] relevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI A  
**Sent:** Sunday, 8 January 2012 11:15 PM  
**To:** Education - SMTP  
**Subject:** Boy is it hot!

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mr Dick,

With all due respect, I would like to ask you if my children and/or their teachers have to commit a crime this Summer to be able to learn in air conditioned comfort, like those in jails can if they choose to study (also for free)?

In this day and age, all schools should have the everyday convenience of climate control, especially in Brisbane's temperatures that are stiflingly hot for at least five months of the year. How can my children learn at their best in 35 degree plus temperatures most days, combined with high humidity? How can their teachers teach at their best either? Everyone is concentrating on how uncomfortable they feel, and they feel too drained to do almost anything.

Did you see the latest reports that claimed that people start to lose their "cool" when the ambient temperature climbs to 32 degrees or above? I'm sure that's true and so unfair on our kids and our teachers, trying to do their job under already pressurised conditions, without trying to cope with the added discomfort of toweling off sweat all day as well.

Come on, this is 2012 and supposedly the Smart State - it's time to do the right thing by our State Schools. Our kids deserve comfortable learning spaces.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted] Information deleted pursuant to



31 JAN 2012

relevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI A

Office of the  
**Minister for Education and  
Industrial Relations**

Dear information deleted pursuant

Thank you for your email dated 8 January 2012 to the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Education and Industrial Relations, regarding the air-conditioning of Queensland state schools. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Department of Education and Training has a policy of air-conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State, in what is referred to as the *Cooler Schools* zone.

It is recognised that students and staff in remaining parts of the State may experience a degree of discomfort on very hot days.

The Department incorporates passive cooling measures in its school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Building orientation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans are among such measures.

Schools use strategies to minimise the risk of student or staff illness on extremely hot days. These measures include allowing students to take water bottles into classrooms, rescheduling or postponing certain outdoor activities until the temperature is more suitable, and staff issuing daily reminders to students to drink plenty of water and remain in shaded areas during breaks. Classroom teachers and teachers on playground duty take extra care to observe children and to immediately respond to symptoms of heat stress.

Many communities outside the *Cooler Schools* zone have elected to air-condition some, or all, classroom spaces. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level, taking into account such matters as increased power costs and impact on the environment.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Lee Callum, Executive Director, Infrastructure Strategy, Research and Development, by email at [lee.callum@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:lee.callum@deta.qld.gov.au) or on telephone 3237 0950.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Minister.

Yours sincerely

**DAVID SMITH**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Hon Cameron Dick MP  
Minister for Education and Industrial Relations

Ref: 12/14143 ET/12/0082

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3237 1000**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335**  
**Email** [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
[www.industrialrelations.qld.gov.au](http://www.industrialrelations.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

12/260534

## Brant Rippon

---

**From:** Education  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 July 2012 3:52 PM  
**To:** ETE parlliaison  
**Subject:** FW: Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP  
**Attachments:** WEST p & C.doc; West P & C .pdf

Thanks

*Bec*

Rebecca Beaumont  
Administration Officer  
Office of the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek MP | Minister for Education, Training and Employment |  
Ph: 323 93702

---

**From:** Bundaberg Electorate Office [<mailto:Bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au>]  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 July 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** Education  
**Subject:** Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP

Good Morning

Please find attached - a letter to the Minister for Education, Training and Employment from Jack Dempsey MP regarding the West State School P & C.

Kind regards

Marcia

Marcia Courtice | Electorate Officer for  
Hon Jack Dempsey MP  
Minister for Police and Community Safety  
State Member for Bundaberg

Ph: (07) 4152 1476 | Fx: (07) 4152 8726

P.O. Box 935 Bundaberg Qld 4670 | [bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:bundaberg@parliament.qld.gov.au)

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**Hon JACK DEMPSEY MP**  
Minister for Police  
and Community Safety

**State Member for Bundaberg**



July 6, 2012

Hon John-Paul Langbroek  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST Qld 4002

Dear Minister

I attach a copy of a letter I have received from information deleted pursuant President of  
West State School P & C Association regarding their concerns in relation to the ongoing high temperatures  
in the school classrooms throughout the long summer months in Bundaberg and the impact it has on teachers  
and students.

Could you please advise me on this matter

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Dempsey'.

**Jack Dempsey MP**

RECEIVED  
28 JUN 2012

BY: .....

COPY - 6 JUL 2012  
RECEIVED

Information deleted pursuant to

c/o Bundaberg West State School  
George St  
Bundaberg West Qld 4670

**Hon Jack Dempsey MP**  
**Member for Bundaberg**  
**Minister for Police and Community Safety**

G.P.O. Box 13195  
City East Qld 4002

Dear Honorable Sir,

Re: Cool Schools Program

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Parents' and Citizens' Association of Bundaberg West State School in regards to the Queensland Government's 'Cool Schools' program.

Our P & C Association has recognised for some time now that our students and educators experience high ambient temperatures in the school classrooms throughout the long summer months in Bundaberg. As an example, as late as Anzac Day of this recent summer season, one classroom recorded a high temperature of 32 degrees Celsius whilst the temperature at 3p.m. was still an uncomfortable 29 degrees Celsius. Typically, classroom temperatures are higher than this during the peak summer months.

We consider that these classroom conditions are having a detrimental effect on learning outcomes and student behavior in our school. Anecdotally, classroom teachers have detailed the necessity to re-schedule learning activities due to the heat experienced in the classroom, whilst students complain of the heat and fatigue they experience.

The Bundaberg West State School P & C has, as a priority, for several years now endeavoured to raise funds in anticipation of participating in the Queensland Government's 'Cool Schools' program. We have identified insulating roof paint, solar powered roof air vents, targeted tree planting and air-conditioning as the preferred options to cool our classrooms. However, we have as yet to be notified by the Government of the status of the 'Cool Schools' program in the Bundaberg region.

Bundaberg West State School P & C Association

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I am sure you can appreciate that our P & C Association is unable to progress our ambition to cool our school until we are informed of the status of the 'Cool Schools' program in our region.

As we have recently had a change of government in Queensland could you please inform us of the status of the 'Cool Schools' program in the Bundaberg region so that our P & C Association can make an informed decision for cooling our school.

Yours Sincerely,

---

Information deleted pursuant to

President

Bundaberg West State School P & C Association

6/25/2012



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3211 8011  
Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

1 AUG 2012

The Honourable Jack Dempsey MP  
Minister for Police and Community Safety  
Member for Bundaberg  
PO Box 935  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Dear Minister *Jack,*

Thank you for your email dated 9 July 2012 on behalf of [information deleted pursuant to] President, Bundaberg West State School Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C), regarding the Cooler Schools Program.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment's Cooler Schools program commenced in 1998 and ended in June 2007. During that time my Department invested approximately \$142 million to air-condition schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State. Over the life of the program, around 3,500 classrooms in 390 Queensland state schools benefited from the installation of air-conditioning. The Bundaberg region was not located within the Cooler Schools Zone.

My Department has no plan to reinstate the Cooler Schools program. Schools and P&Cs are encouraged to work together to deliver cooling solutions from their own budgets or fundraising activities. I commend the Bundaberg West State School community for the hard work they have undertaken in this regard and for their efforts in addressing and supporting their school's priorities.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Chief of Staff, Ms Fiona Crawford on telephone 3237 1000.

I trust this information will assist in replying to [information deleted pursuant to] representations.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Ref: 12/265821 ETE/12/1751

Minister's Office File Ref:	ETE/12/1751
Department File Ref:	12/265839

## Briefing Note

Chief of Staff

Office of the Minister for Education, Training and Employment

**Action required: With Correspondence**

**Action required by: N/A**

**Routine – Information to support correspondence**

### SUBJECT: COOLER SCHOOLS PROGRAM – BUNDABERG WEST STATE SCHOOL

#### Summary of key objectives

- The Department has prepared the attached response letter to the Honourable Jack Dempsey MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety, and Member for Bundaberg regarding his representations on behalf of [information deleted pursuant] President of the Bundaberg West State School Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C).
- Schools in the Bundaberg region were not eligible for funding assistance to install air-conditioning under the previous program as they were not located within the Cooler Schools Zone (Ref: 12/107318).
- The Department has no plans to reinstate or expand the Cooler Schools program.

#### Key issues

1. [ation deleted pursuant] was seeking clarification on the status of the Cooler Schools program and whether or not there was likely to be any future funding available from the Department that would assist the school to install air-conditioning in its classrooms.
2. The Department's previous Cooler Schools program operated from 1998 to 2007, to deliver air-conditioning to state schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland.
3. The Department has no plan to reinstate the Cooler Schools program to deliver air-conditioning to schools outside of the original Cooler School Zone.

#### Implications

4. Nil.

#### Background

5. The Cooler Schools Zone extends from Bowen in North Queensland west to the border near Camooweal, from the Torres Strait in Far North Queensland south to the Gladstone region, and from Biloela and Theodore west to the Great Dividing Range.
6. Over the life of the Cooler Schools program, the Department delivered approximately \$142 million worth of air-conditioning to around 3,500 classrooms in 390 state schools.
7. Any new classrooms or schools built within the Cooler Schools Zone since June 2007 are air-conditioned by the Department.
8. Schools outside of the zone often utilise funding from their own budgets or through other fundraising initiatives, such as those organised by P&Cs, to install air-conditioning.
9. These schools are responsible for the maintenance and increased electricity costs associated with running the air-conditioning.
10. Schools which received air-conditioning units through the Cooler Schools program are responsible for meeting any maintenance costs from their annual maintenance allocation.

Minister's Office File Ref:	ETE/12/1751
Department File Ref:	12/265839

11. The North Coast Regional Facilities Manager has advised that the Senior Facilities Officer based in the Bundaberg office met with the Principal of Bundaberg West State School in May 2012 to identify the school's air-conditioning priorities, power supply requirements and approximate costs.

#### Right to information

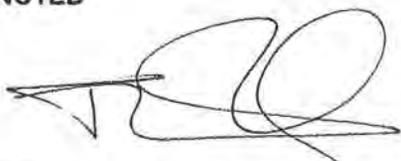
12. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief are **suitable** for publication.

#### Recommendation

That the Chief of Staff:

**note** the attached response letter to the Honourable Jack Dempsey MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety and Member for Bundaberg regarding the Department's previous Cooler Schools program.

#### NOTED



**FIONA CRAWFORD**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

30 1 7112.

Copy to Assistant Minister

#### Chief of Staff's comments

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Action Officer	Endorsed by:	Endorsed by:	Endorsed by:	Endorsed by:
Emma Clarey	Director	ED	ADG	A/DDG
Principal Planning Officer	Joe Willis	Lee Callum	Paul Hobbs	Adam Black
Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)	Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)	Strategy, Research and Performance	Infrastructure Services Branch	Corporate Services
Tel: 3237 0026	Tel: 323 71902	Tel: 323 70950	Tel: 323 70658	Tel: 3405 6329
	Mob: 0413 612 633	Mob: 0408 018 611	Mob: 0439 720 664	Mob: 0423 842 314
Date: 16/07/12	Date: 17/07/12	Date: 17/07/12	Date: 18/07/12	Date: 19/07/12

12/153880

**FUNG, Audrey**

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**From:** [redacted] - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 May 2012 9:17 AM  
**To:** INFOMNGT, Corporate Correspondence  
**Subject:** As a concerned parent



To whom it may concern,,

Hello we live in the tropics of wonga beach far north Queensland, my children attend wonga beach state school. At the end of every school year we have a school concert which always goes really well and I love having my children involved with the concert,. But it is so god dam hot up here we have it out side but under cover there are no fans of any kind ,. At the end of 2011 the heat was so out of control there were mosquitoes of all kinds humidity , it is to hot, unless there is some kind of air movement. My children and a lot of other families will not be attending this year end of year concert. So how would we as parents be able to go about fixing this problem,..with such heat cannot give their best performance. Not to mention poor Santa in his out fit.please help us fix this problem.



Thank you

[redacted] - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2)

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Information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the

Dear [Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the

Thank you for your email dated 2 May 2012 which detailed your concerns about the lack of cooling solutions at the Wonga Beach State School end of year concert in 2011.

The undercover performance area at Wonga Beach State School has been designed to take best advantage of natural air flow and sea breezes. However, as is sometimes the case in Far North Queensland, natural air flow can be limited in this space on days when it is particularly hot and still.

The Principal, Ms Michelle Davis, acknowledges that the temperature on the night of last year's concert was exceptionally warm, making it uncomfortable for students performing and for the audience in attendance.

Ms Davis has consulted with the President of the Parents & Citizens' Association regarding this issue and they are working together to find a suitable cooling solution to be in place for this year's concert.

One option they are looking into is purchasing or hiring industrial fans that will cool the space, but not interfere with the audio requirements for the concert.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Davis on 4099 9777.

Yours sincerely

Joe Willis  
Director, Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)  
Infrastructure Strategy, Research and Performance

Ref: 12/163397

12/466702

**Rebecca Beaumont**

---

**From:** Surfers Paradise Electorate Office <Surfers.Paradise@parliament.qld.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 December 2012 7:07 PM  
**To:** Education  
**Subject:** FW: School air conditioning

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Corro

**From:** Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 December 2012 11:59 AM

**To:** Surfers Paradise Electorate Office; Minister for Education, Training and Employment

**Subject:** School air conditioning

*Published in the Courier Mail*

David Mooney of Brisbane

Posted at 6:59 AM 4 December 2011

Mr Langbroek said his Government would not fund air conditioning for southeast schools. Why not? State Schools are the responsibility of the State Governments. The Government, be it LNP or Labor, should ensure that there is air conditioning in summer and winter to ensure that the school rooms are comfortable for pupils and staff. If a pupil is uncomfortable throughout the school day due to very high temperatures he or she can not learn properly, and teachers can not teach efficiently. By refusing to ensure that all State schools are adequately air conditioned he is acting irresponsibly.

Comment 82 of 96

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/newman-government-claims-cool-schools-not-a-priority-as-heat-rises-in-classrooms/comments-e6trcoof-1226529298577>

Mr. John Paul Langbroek,  
Suite 1, Level 1, Building 1  
Capri on Via Roma  
ISLE OF CAPRI QLD 4217

Mr Langbroek,

You and your fellow MPs, LNP and Labor, work in air conditioned comfort. Why are you and your LNP mates denying the same conditions for pupils and teachers?

- Information deleted pursuant to s

## Brisbane

Relevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

12/466702

Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email dated 4 December 2012 to the Honourable John Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education, Training and Employment, regarding air-conditioning in Queensland state schools. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Department of Education and Training has a policy of air-conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State, in what is referred to as the *Cooler Schools* zone.

It is recognised that students and staff in remaining parts of the State may experience a degree of discomfort on very hot days. The Department incorporates passive cooling measures in its school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Building orientation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans are among such measures.

Schools also use strategies to minimise the risk of student or staff illness on extremely hot days. These measures include allowing students to take water bottles into classrooms, rescheduling or postponing certain outdoor activities until the temperature is more suitable, and staff issuing daily reminders to students to drink plenty of water and remain in shaded areas during breaks. Classroom teachers and teachers on playground duty take extra care to observe children and to immediately respond to symptoms of heat stress.

Many communities outside the *Cooler Schools* zone have elected to air-condition some, or all, classroom spaces either through funding provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association or by using their annual minor works allocation. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level, taking into account such matters as increased power costs and impact on the environment.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Joe Willis, Director, Infrastructure Strategy by email at [Joe.F.Willis@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:Joe.F.Willis@dete.qld.gov.au) or on telephone 3237 1902.

Yours sincerely

**Fiona Crawford**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

Ref: 12/475998

12/480327



12 | 228327

**Rebecca Beaumont**

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**From:** Tricia Hughes <Tricia.Hughes@isaac.qld.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 June 2012 6:02 PM  
**To:** Education  
**Subject:** Cool Schools Program  
**Attachments:** img-614174912-0001.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good Afternoon Minister,

Please find attached letter from Isaac Regional Council.

Regards,

**Tricia Hughes**  
Executive Assistant

**ISAAC REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Planning and Environmental Services Directorate**  
PO Box 97 Moranbah QLD 4744  
Ph: (07) 4941 4569 / Fax: (07) 4941 8666

Website: [www.isaac.qld.gov.au](http://www.isaac.qld.gov.au)  
Email: [Tricia.Hughes@isaac.qld.gov.au](mailto:Tricia.Hughes@isaac.qld.gov.au)

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PO Box 97  
MORANBAH QLD 4744  
T: (07) 1300 ISAACS (1300 472 227)  
F: (07) 4941 8666  
E: records@isaac.qld.gov.au  
ABN 39 274 142 600

Our Ref.: IX599247:MC:th

Email to: Education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

13 June 2012

Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment  
PO Box 15033  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister

**RE COOL SCHOOLS PROGRAM**

I write in reference to the above and a recent deputation by representatives of Dysart State School seeking Council support to raise this matter with you.

Would it be possible to arrange for a formal deputation at a time of your convenience to present information relevant to this matter.

Temperatures in the classrooms have eased due to the cooler months but it would be ideal to have a solution before the warmer months return.

We await your earliest response to our request.

Should you have any further queries regarding this matter please contact the undersigned by telephone on 07 4941 4524 or by email at records@isaac.qld.gov.au.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Crawley'.

MARK CRAWLEY  
Chief Executive Officer

*Isaac... the Region of first choice*



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

19 JUL 2012

Mr Mark Crawley  
Chief Executive Officer  
Isaac Regional Council  
PO Box 97  
MORANBAH QLD 4744

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street, Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3211 8011  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Crawley

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2012 regarding the *Cooler Schools* program at Dysart State School.

It is difficult to ascertain the basis of your inquiry from the information provided. However, the *Cooler Schools* program to which you refer has been in existence for more than 10 years and both schools in Dysart would have been built to the standard applicable to the time of construction and then upgraded since the establishment of the *Cooler Schools* initiative.

I understand that at Dysart State School, a \$1.8 million upgrade of all classroom and administration air-conditioning was completed in November 2010. In the past 12 months two faults were reported and resolved. Regional facilities management is unaware of any outstanding issues with the current system.

By contrast, Dysart State High School is still operating with an out-dated evaporative cooling system which is programmed for replacement in 2012 through to 2014. This upgrade program has been funded over the next two financial years and is in the planning and procurement stage. It is expected that works will commence in this calendar year. However, these upgrade programs are subject to prioritisation across the State and to budget availability.

Due to my current work schedule, I am unable to accept your offer of a formal deputation, however to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Bill McMillan, Regional Facilities Manager, Central Queensland Region, on telephone 4938 6903.

Your interest in the welfare of students attending Dysart State School is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Ref: 12/246893 ETE/12/1183  
Your ref: IX599247:MC:th

12/13656



Office of the Premier

110 JAN 2012

For reply please quote: MC/MY - TF/11/33580 - DOC/11/223550

6 JAN 2012

Information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of

Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3224 4500  
Facsimile +61 7 3221 3631  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Dear [redacted] nation deleted pursu

Thank you for your email of 3 December 2011 concerning air conditioning in Queensland state schools. I have been requested to reply to you on the Premier's behalf.

The contents of your correspondence have been noted.

This matter has been referred to the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Education and Industrial Relations for his consideration and reply direct to you.

Please be assured that Minister Dick will give your correspondence full consideration.

Again, thank you for contacting the Premier on this matter.

Yours sincerely

**M Weaver**  
Director  
Executive Correspondence

**B/C The Honourable the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations.**

**By direction. For your information and direct reply, please.  
Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.**

**M Weaver**  
Director  
Executive Correspondence



**Michele Rice**

**From:** The Premier  
**To:** [redacted] - Information deleted pursuant to s 72  
**Subject:** RE: Puplic servants question

Thank you for your email to the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier and Minister for Reconstruction. We confirm receipt of your message and advise your correspondence will be actioned as is appropriate. We appreciate the time you have taken to contact the Premier.

Regards

Ministerial Officer  
Office of the Premier

**Tomorrow's Queensland: strong, green, smart, healthy and fair - [www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au](http://www.towardQ2.qld.gov.au)**

**Please consider the environment before printing this email**

**From:** [redacted] - Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act  
**Sent:** Saturday, 3 December 2011 8:46 AM  
**To:** The Premier  
**Subject:** Puplic servants question

Dear Ms Anna Bligh,

I would like to know why teachers are the only public servants who work in non-air conditioned work places. I find it appalling that all other public servants including bus drivers and ferry drivers have air conditioned facilities in which to operate. However, we are expected to educate the future of our nation, doctors, lawyers, and even the future premiers in heat that exceeds 36 degrees within our classroom on a daily basis within the hotter months. This has already been the case this hot season to date.

I do not know how anyone expects the learning outcomes of students to be of a high standard when the teachers and students themselves are not comfortable and able to concentrate for periods of time required for intensive learning.

All other states have air conditioned schools and better working conditions that we are required to be working in. Even Sydney schools have air conditioning, which I am sure are no hotter than here in Brisbane.

Regards [redacted] - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

Is it a copy?	YES	NO
Is it a copy of a document?		
Is it a copy of a document?		
- 5 DEGREES		Date received in DPC
Document type	002/11/201500	
File no	1E/11/33580	
Original File no		



Kerrie Kahlon

16 NOV 2011

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 15 November 2011 9:35 PM  
**To:** Education - SMTP  
**Subject:** Improve learning in Queensland

11/340073

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mr Dick,

I write to make a point about learning in State Schools in Queensland.

It stands to reason that states such as ours that have Summer climates like we experienced today and even hotter, are very uncomfortable for our students to try to learn in. The children and school staff in Queensland, in this day and age deserve better. We live in 2011, where most facilities, shopping centres, cars and homes are air-conditioned and people these days are accustomed to that environment. Surely children deserve the best environment in which to try to reach the goals that we set for them, which are becoming more and more demanding. Temperatures in this state are often in excess of 30 degrees, 35 degrees and sometimes above 40 degrees - how can anyone be motivated to do anything in those conditions, except spend what little energy they have trying to keep cool?

Being too hot causes people to feel nauseous, agitated, lethargic and bad tempered. In these conditions, children are more prone to be uncooperative, inattentive, non-responsive and aggressive and staff are more likely to feel more easily agitated and cranky too. Surely learning and teaching would be better maximized for a much longer period in the year, if these people in schools worked in comfortable temperatures. If even prisoners, who have wronged society, deserve such a basic human comfort as air-conditioning has become these days, then surely our innocent, striving children and hard working teachers do too?

As you read this letter from your air-conditioned office, please give a thought to what I have said about those people working out there today in 35 degree temperatures with 30 people in a room together.

What happened to the Cooler Schools program which was addressing this problem and stopped years ago somewhere in North Queensland where the temperatures are the same as here in Brisbane? Please, let's bring it back before we expect better outcomes and results from our kids. Maybe it's not a coincidence that Southern States are outperforming us and others, where the heat is oppressive during two seasons of the year.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]  
ormation deleted pursuar

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14 DEC 2011

Information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the

Office of the  
Minister for Education and  
Industrial Relations

Dear [redacted] [redacted] mation deleted pursu

Thank you for your email dated 15 November 2011 to the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Minister for Education and Industrial Relations, regarding air conditioning in Queensland schools. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Department of Education and Training has a policy of air conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State, referred to as the *Cooler Schools* zone. Air conditioning in this zone was originally provided by a subsidy arrangement and was completed in June 2007. It is recognised that students and staff in remaining parts of the State may experience a degree of discomfort on very hot days.

The Department incorporates passive cooling measures in its school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Building orientation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans are among such measures.

Schools use strategies to minimise the risk of student or staff illness on extremely hot days. These measures include allowing students to take water bottles into classrooms, rescheduling or postponing certain outdoor activities until the temperature is more suitable, and staff issuing daily reminders to students to drink plenty of water and remain in shaded areas during breaks. Classroom teachers and teachers on playground duty take extra care to observe children and to immediately respond to symptoms of heat stress.

Many communities outside the *Cooler Schools* zone have elected to air-condition some, or all, classroom spaces. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level, taking into account such matters as increased power costs and impact on the environment.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Lee Callum, Executive Director, Infrastructure Strategy, Research and Development by email at [lee.callum@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:lee.callum@deta.qld.gov.au) or on telephone (07) 3237 0950.

Thank you for bringing this matter to the attention of the Minister.

Yours sincerely

**DAVID SMITH**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Hon Cameron Dick MP  
Minister for Education and Industrial Relations

Ref: 11/342056 ET/11/4503

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15033 Brisbane  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
[www.industrialrelations.qld.gov.au](http://www.industrialrelations.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 65 959 415 158

11/303638

**DUNCAN, Bruce**

**From:** Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act  
**Sent:** Monday, 31 October 2011 9:38 AM  
**To:** INFOMNGT, Corporate Correspondence  
**Subject:** Air conditioning in state schools

Can you please tell me is there a link somewhere I can find out about air conditioning in state schools? The what to dos, etc. Does the State Govt put in so much toward air conditioning on the basis that the school raises funds, etc.

I realise it is up to P&C committees to do some funding for this, but I feel that our school is being ignored as it is one of the biggest primary schools in Bundaberg (approx 900 students) and isn't fully air conditioned. Plus the fact that this school has the best musically skilled children who travel all over Qld to compete, and is also recognised as a school with such talented sports students.

There are 2 other primary schools in Bundaberg (and smaller - 1 to which is getting lots of renovations done at the present time) here that are fully air conditioned and I'm guessing they fund raised. It upsets me a little because my youngest child has ation - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) and at the present time 2 of her female teachers are pregnant. Fans are the only means of coolness in these hot classrooms.

The school was given some money but it had to go towards a small building, to which they built a sports arena which is good for them, but our children in the classrooms missed out yet again. The school had a fete recently which raised enough money to air condition 2 more classrooms which are demountables.

Norville State School should be looked at. My eldest daughter goes to one of the biggest High Schools here in Bundaberg also, and they aren't air conditioned either - except for the library & science lab. It makes me sad to sit here in my air conditioned (Qld Govt office) office thinking about my children in the heat at school.

Please send me a link or let me know where I can find some info.

*Cheers*

Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

+-----+

Think B4U Print

1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4kg CO2 in the atmosphere

3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water

+-----+

11/295852

**DUNCAN, Bruce**

**From:** DUNCAN, Bruce  
**Sent:** Monday, 7 November 2011 12:44 PM  
**To:** [redacted] vant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI  
**Attachments:** Cooler Schools Map.pdf

[redacted] nformation deleted pursuant t

Thank you for your email dated 31 October 2011 to the Department, regarding air-conditioning in Queensland state schools. I have been asked to respond to your enquiry.

The Department of Education and Training has a policy of air-conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State, referred to as the "Cooler Schools" zone. While they occur less frequently, it is recognised that students and staff in remaining parts of the State may experience a degree of discomfort on very hot days. For your information, attached is the current cooler schools zone map.

The subsidy type scheme you refer to was the old 'Cooler Schools' Program which ended in 2007 and was not applicable to those schools outside the zone.

The Department incorporates passive cooling measures in its school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Building orientation, insulation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans are among such measures.

Many communities outside the Cooler Schools zone have elected to air-condition some, or all, classroom spaces. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level, taking into account such matters as increased power costs and impact on the environment. Departmental Guidelines require such projects to also include the provision of insulation and any other infrastructure upgrades required to complete these projects.

The Department has specifications available to schools that wish to undertake these projects.

Feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

regards

**Bruce Duncan** | A/Manager  
Capital Projects Unit | Infrastructure Services Branch  
Department of Education and Training  
Floor 15 | Education House | 30 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000  
T 3247 3976 | F 3239 0817 | M 0418 793 402 | E [bruce.duncan@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:bruce.duncan@deta.qld.gov.au)  
<http://deta.qld.gov.au/>

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## CLAREY, Emma

---

**From:** DUCK, Greg  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 July 2012 8:09 AM  
**To:** CLAREY, Emma  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Assistance Please Greg - Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP re air conditioning at Bundaberg West State School

Hi Emma

We do not have information on the maintenance costs for Cooler Schools air conditioning.

Maintenance of the air conditioning units would be funded by the school from the school's maintenance allocation. The school would also be responsible for the increased electricity costs associated with running the air conditioning.

Hope this helps

Regards

*Greg Duck*  
Director  
Infrastructure Management  
Infrastructure Services Branch  
Department of Education Training and Employment  
3237 0063/0429 192 402

---

**From:** CLAREY, Emma  
**Sent:** Monday, July 16, 2012 4:33 PM  
**To:** DUCK, Greg  
**Cc:** WILLIS, Joe  
**Subject:** Urgent Assistance Please Greg - Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP re air conditioning at Bundaberg West State School

Hi Greg,

I have prepared a draft Ministerial response letter and a CBN regarding the Cooler Schools program in response to a letter from the Member for Bundaberg, Jack Dempsey. Minister Dempsey has written in on behalf of the Bundaberg West SS P&C president.

This TRIM request came to our work unit very late on Friday afternoon for actioning. My Director, Joe Willis, has asked me to consult with the RFM and yourself in preparing the response.

The attached draft letter and CBN already includes feedback from Trevor Schulz, and I am now seeking your input. Can I please have **your feedback by 9am tomorrow**? In particular, if you are able to provide any costings for the maintenance of the Cooler Schools air-con units, that would be great.

My apologies for the tight timeframe - but this is **due to MESU by 4pm tomorrow**. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,  
Emma

**Emma Clarey**

Principal Planning Officer | Infrastructure Services Branch | Corporate Services | Department of Education, Training and Employment

☎ 323 70026 | ✉ [emma.clarey@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:emma.clarey@dete.qld.gov.au)

**From:** "HENRICKSEN, David" <[David.HENRICKSEN@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:David.HENRICKSEN@dete.qld.gov.au)>

**Date:** 16 July 2012 10:17:04 AM AEST

**To:** "SCHULZ, Trevor" <[Trevor.SCHULZ@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:Trevor.SCHULZ@dete.qld.gov.au)>

**Subject: RE: Assistance Please Trevor - Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP re air conditioning at Bundaberg West State School**

Hi Trev

In May 2012 I met with the school Principal regarding their (School/ P&Cs) intention to Air-condition classrooms through-out the school. We identified approx costs, power supply requirements and priorities.

Also just spoke to Ross Morrall(Principal) today, who basically said the main reason for the letter , is that they did not want to proceed with any works, and then find later that additional funding/subsidy(i.e Cooler Schools) is available to the schools, now in the Bundaberg area.

If you have any further questions, please give me a call.

Thanks

David Henricksen

Senior Facilities Services Officer

North Coast Region (Bundaberg Office)

Ph 07 4154 0346

Mob 0418 184 944

Email [david.henricksen@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:david.henricksen@dete.qld.gov.au)

---

**From:** SCHULZ, Trevor

**Sent:** Monday, 16 July 2012 8:57 AM

**To:** HENRICKSEN, David

**Subject:** Fwd: Assistance Please Trevor - Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP re air conditioning at Bundaberg West State School

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "CLAREY, Emma" <[Emma.CLAREY@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:Emma.CLAREY@dete.qld.gov.au)>

**Date:** 13 July 2012 5:03:59 PM AEST

**To:** "SCHULZ, Trevor" <[Trevor.SCHULZ@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:Trevor.SCHULZ@dete.qld.gov.au)>

**Cc:** "WILLIS, Joe" <[Joe.F.WILLIS@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:Joe.F.WILLIS@deta.qld.gov.au)>

**Subject: Assistance Please Trevor - Correspondence from Jack Dempsey MP re air conditioning at Bundaberg West State School**

Hi Trevor,

I left a message on your phone earlier about this urgent Ministerial request we have received this afternoon. I am not actually certain that this is an ISRP issue as it relates to the defunct Cool Schools program.. but I thought I would at least get the ball rolling on information-gathering for the response, given the urgency.

Have you ever received any corro or representations from the Bundaberg West P&C/Principal about getting air-con installed? The incoming corro from the local MP suggests that this has been an ongoing issue and that the previous government failed to give the school any clarity about the status of the Cool School program. I could not find any evidence in TRIM to support this claim.

I am seeking your assistance with any local knowledge you may have. Please note the Department's deadline for a response is 4pm Monday 16 July.

Cheers,  
Emma

**Emma Clarey**

Principal Planning Officer | Infrastructure Services Branch | Corporate Services | Department of Education, Training and Employment

☎ 323 70026 | ✉ [emma.clarey@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:emma.clarey@deta.qld.gov.au)

<hr size=2 width="100%" align=center>

**From:** [EDRMS.INFOMNGT@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:EDRMS.INFOMNGT@deta.qld.gov.au) [<mailto:EDRMS.INFOMNGT@deta.qld.gov.au>]

**Sent:** Friday, July 13, 2012 4:15 PM

**To:** CLAREY, Emma

**Subject:** HP TRIM Notification: 12/260534 - ETE/12/1751 DEMPSEY Jack MP representations on behalf of mation deleted pursu  
West State School P & C regarding concerns with high temperatures in school classrooms

Margaret Heirs has placed record 12/260534 concerning 'ETE/12/1751 DEMPSEY Jack MP representations on behalf of mation deleted pursu West State School P & C regarding concerns with high temperatures in school classrooms' (Incoming Correspondence to Minister) in Principal Planning Officer 02 SAL SR&P's HP TRIM In-Tray for attention.

Double click on the attachment to view the record in HP TRIM. If the record is electronic it may be opened and viewed directly from HP TRIM. If the record is hard copy it is on its way and should reach you shortly.

After undertaking the required action, 'move' the record in HP TRIM to another officer's position or 'enclose' the record in HP TRIM into its relevant container (file).

[Security Classification Label: Unclassified]

**Please do not reply to this email notification.**

If you require HP TRIM assistance, contact ICT Support by:

Web - <https://qlddet.service-now.com/sc/ess.do>

Phone - 1800 680 445

Email - [servicecentre@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:servicecentre@deta.qld.gov.au)

Regards, TRIM Administrator

The Hon Jack Dempsey MP  
Member for Bundaberg  
Minister for Police and Community Safety  
PO Box 935  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Dear Minister Dempsey

Thank you for your email dated 9 July 2012 regarding recent representations you have received from the president of the Bundaberg West State School Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C), [information deleted pursuant to section 47A(2)(b)]

I understand [information deleted pursuant to section 47A(2)(b)] is seeking clarification about the status of the Cooler Schools program to ascertain if there is any potential for the school to secure funding assistance to install air-conditioning in classrooms.

I can advise that the Department's Cooler Schools program commenced in 1998-99 and ended in June 2007. During that time the Department delivered approximately \$142.4 million dollars worth of air-conditioning to schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the state. However, the Bundaberg region was not located within the Cooler Schools Zone. (Please see the attached map – Cooler Schools Zone.)

Over the life of the Cooler Schools program, around 3500 classrooms in 390 Queensland state schools benefited from the installation of air-conditioning and these systems are maintained as part of the Department's annual asset maintenance program.

The Queensland Government has no plan to reinstate or expand the Cooler Schools program. However, there is no impediment for schools and P&C Associations to work together to deliver cooling solutions from their own budgets or fund-raising activities. I note the very hard work the Bundaberg West State School community has already undertaken in this regard and I would encourage the P&C to continue these efforts.

I trust this information will assist with your response to [information deleted pursuant to section 47A(2)(b)] and the Bundaberg West State School P&C. Should you require any further information about the Department's previous Cooler Schools program, please contact Mr Joe Willis, Director Infrastructure Strategy (Schools) on [joe.f.willis@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:joe.f.willis@dete.qld.gov.au) or (07) 3237 1902.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

Ref:

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	

## Briefing Note

Chief of Staff

Office of the Minister for Education, Training and Employment

**Action required: With Correspondence**

**Action required by: 17/07/2012**

**Critical – In order to meet the deadline set by the Minister's office**

### SUBJECT: COOLER SCHOOLS PROGRAM – BUNDABERG WEST STATE SCHOOL

**Summary of key objectives** The Department has prepared the attached draft response letter to the Hon Jack Dempsey MP, Member for Bundaberg and Minister for Police and Community Safety regarding the Department's defunct Cooler Schools program (Attachment 1 – TRIM Ref: XX/XXXXX).

- Schools in the Bundaberg region were not eligible for funding assistance to install air-conditioning under the previous program as they were not located within the Cooler Schools Zone (Attachment 2 – TRIM Ref: XX/XXXXX).
- The Department has no plans to reinstate or expand the Cooler Schools program.

### Key issues

1. The Hon Jack Dempsey MP wrote to the Minister on Monday 9 July seeking advice on behalf of the president of the Bundaberg West State School Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C), delete information deleted pursuant
2. information deleted pursuant was seeking clarification on the status of the Cooler Schools program and whether or not there were likely to be any future funding available from the Department that would assist the school to install air-conditioning in its classrooms.
3. The Department's previous Cooler Schools program operated from 1998-99 to 2006-07, to deliver air-conditioning to state schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland.
4. The "Cooler Schools Zone" extends from Bowen in North Queensland west to the border near Camooweal, from the Torres Strait in Far North Queensland south to the Gladstone region, and from Biloela and Theodore and west to the Great Dividing Range.
5. The Bundaberg region is not located within the Cooler Schools Zone.
6. Over the life of the Cooler Schools program, the department delivered \$142.4 million worth of air-conditioning to around 3500 classrooms in 390 Queensland state schools.
7. Since the program ceased in June 2007, the Department has spent in excess of \$XX million to maintain and upgrade the "Cooler Schools" air-conditioning units.
8. Any new classrooms or schools built since June 2007 within the Cooler Schools Zone are also air-conditioned.
9. The Department has no plan to reinstate or expand the Cooler Schools program to deliver air-conditioning to schools outside of the original Cooler School Zone.
10. However, schools outside of the zone often utilise funding from their own budgets or through other fund-raising initiatives, such as those organised by P&Cs, to install air-conditioning.
11. The North Coast Regional Office is aware of the Bundaberg West State School's intention to install air-conditioning in its classrooms and acknowledges the P&C's fund-raising efforts in this regard.

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	

**Implications**

12. The Department's Infrastructure Services, Research and Performance (ISRP) unit liaised with the North Coast Regional Facilities Manager (RFM) and the Director Infrastructure Operations in developing the attached Ministerial response letter.

**Background**

13. The North Coast RFM has advised that the Senior Facilities Officer based in Bundaberg office met with the principal of Bundaberg West State School in May 2012 to identify the school's air-conditioning priorities, power supply requirements and approximate costs.

**Right to information**

14. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief **are suitable** for publication.

Minister's Office File Ref:	
Department File Ref:	

**Recommendation**

That the Chief of Staff:

- **Note** the attached draft response letter to the Hon Jack Dempsey MP, Member for Bundaberg and Minister for Police and Community Safety regarding the Department's defunct Cooler Schools program and forward it to the Minister for signing. (Attachment 1 – TRIM Ref: XX/XXXXX)

**NOTED**

**Fiona Crawford**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

/ /

Copy to Assistant Minister

**Chief of Staff's comments**

Action Officer Emma Clarey Principal Planning Officer	Endorsed by: Joe Willis Director, Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)	Endorsed by: Lee Callum Executive Director, Infrastructure Strategy and Performance (ISRP)	Endorsed by: Paul Hobbs Assistant Director-General	Endorsed by: Adam Black Deputy Director- General	Endorsed by: Julie Grantham Director-General
Infrastructure Service Branch (ISB)	ISB	ISB	ISB	Corporate Services	Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE)
Tel: 3237 0026	Tel: Mob: Date: / /	Tel: Mob: Date: / /	Tel: Mob: Date: / /	Tel: Mob: Date: / /	Tel: Mob: Date: / /

Minister's Office File Ref:	ETE/12/1751
Department File Ref:	12/265839

## Briefing Note

Chief of Staff

Office of the Minister for Education, Training and Employment

**Action required: With Correspondence**

**Action required by: N/A**

**Routine – Information to support correspondence**

### SUBJECT: COOLER SCHOOLS PROGRAM – BUNDABERG WEST STATE SCHOOL

#### Summary of key objectives

- The Department has prepared the attached response letter to the Honourable Jack Dempsey MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety, and Member for Bundaberg regarding his representations on behalf of [information deleted pursuant] President of the Bundaberg West State School Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C).
- Schools in the Bundaberg region were not eligible for funding assistance to install air-conditioning under the previous program as they were not located within the Cooler Schools Zone (Ref: 12/107318).
- The Department has no plans to reinstate or expand the Cooler Schools program.

#### Key issues

1. [information deleted pursuant] was seeking clarification on the status of the Cooler Schools program and whether or not there was likely to be any future funding available from the Department that would assist the school to install air-conditioning in its classrooms.
2. The Department's previous Cooler Schools program operated from 1998 to 2007, to deliver air-conditioning to state schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland.
3. The Department has no plan to reinstate the Cooler Schools program to deliver air-conditioning to schools outside of the original Cooler School Zone.

#### Implications

4. Nil.

#### Background

5. The Cooler Schools Zone extends from Bowen in North Queensland west to the border near Camooweal, from the Torres Strait in Far North Queensland south to the Gladstone region, and from Biloela and Theodore west to the Great Dividing Range.
6. Over the life of the Cooler Schools program, the Department delivered approximately \$142 million worth of air-conditioning to around 3,500 classrooms in 390 state schools.
7. Any new classrooms or schools built within the Cooler Schools Zone since June 2007 are air-conditioned by the Department.
8. Schools outside of the zone often utilise funding from their own budgets or through other fundraising initiatives, such as those organised by P&Cs, to install air-conditioning.
9. These schools are responsible for the maintenance and increased electricity costs associated with running the air-conditioning.
10. Schools which received air-conditioning units through the Cooler Schools program are responsible for meeting any maintenance costs from their annual maintenance allocation.

Minister's Office File Ref:	ETE/12/1751
Department File Ref:	12/265839

11. The North Coast Regional Facilities Manager has advised that the Senior Facilities Officer based in the Bundaberg office met with the Principal of Bundaberg West State School in May 2012 to identify the school's air-conditioning priorities, power supply requirements and approximate costs.

#### Right to information

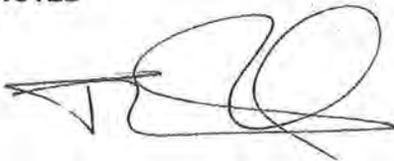
12. I am of the view that the contents or attachments contained in this brief are suitable for publication.

#### Recommendation

That the Chief of Staff:

**note** the attached response letter to the Honourable Jack Dempsey MP, Minister for Police and Community Safety and Member for Bundaberg regarding the Department's previous Cooler Schools program.

#### NOTED



**FIONA CRAWFORD**  
**Chief of Staff**  
**Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

30 1 7 1 2 .

Copy to Assistant Minister

#### Chief of Staff's comments

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Action Officer	Endorsed by:	Endorsed by:	Endorsed by:	Endorsed by:
Emma Clarey	Director	ED	ADG	A/DDG
Principal Planning Officer	Joe Willis	Lee Callum	Paul Hobbs	Adam Black
Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)	Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)	Strategy, Research and Performance	Infrastructure Services Branch	Corporate Services
Tel: 3237 0026	Tel: 323 71902	Tel: 323 70950	Tel: 323 70658	Tel: 3405 6329
	Mob: 0413 612 633	Mob: 0408 018 611	Mob: 0439 720 664	Mob: 0423 842 314
Date: 16/07/12	Date: 17/07/12	Date: 17/07/12	Date: 18/07/12	Date: 19/07/12



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000  
Facsimile +61 7 3211 8011  
Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

1 AUG 2012

The Honourable Jack Dempsey MP  
Minister for Police and Community Safety  
Member for Bundaberg  
PO Box 935  
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

Dear Minister *Jack,*

Thank you for your email dated 9 July 2012 on behalf of Information deleted pursuant to President, Bundaberg West State School Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C), regarding the Cooler Schools Program.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment's Cooler Schools program commenced in 1998 and ended in June 2007. During that time my Department invested approximately \$142 million to air-condition schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State. Over the life of the program, around 3,500 classrooms in 390 Queensland state schools benefited from the installation of air-conditioning. The Bundaberg region was not located within the Cooler Schools Zone.

My Department has no plan to reinstate the Cooler Schools program. Schools and P&Cs are encouraged to work together to deliver cooling solutions from their own budgets or fundraising activities. I commend the Bundaberg West State School community for the hard work they have undertaken in this regard and for their efforts in addressing and supporting their school's priorities.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact my Chief of Staff, Ms Fiona Crawford on telephone 3237 1000.

I trust this information will assist in replying to Information deleted pursuant to representations.

Yours sincerely

**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Ref: 12/265821 ETE/12/1751

**FUNG, Audrey**

---

**From:** [redacted] relevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 December 2012 12:09 PM  
**To:** INFOMNGT, Corporate Correspondence  
**Subject:** A concerned parent.

To whom this may concern,

My name is [redacted] I am the mother of an [redacted] year old boy who has [redacted] relevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act  
[redacted] Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act. I have been informed that my Son is not able to access any additional funding support for his disorders unless he has ASD or language and speech delays with no other problems within a public school. I would like to know why? I have also been informed that my son could receive funding in a Catholic school for his social and emotional issues however I have been told this funding will be cut soon. I cannot get my son into a Catholic school as there are "no spaces" to accommodate my sons needs. My son [redacted] information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act is struggling at school I have wanted him to repeat a year level but have been told by the school this is not best for him. He is born at [redacted] information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

[redacted] Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

I am also concerned about the lack of air-conditioning in Queensland schools. As one of the warmer states in Australia Education Queensland needs to seriously think about putting this into our schools as this would greatly help teachers to teach and students to learn more productively.

Thank you from [redacted] information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act Email [redacted] information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

12/459617



18 December 2012

Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

North Coast Region  
Department of  
**Education and Training**  
Education Queensland

Dear [Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act]

Thank you for your email dated 5 December 2012 outlining your concerns regarding funding support for your son and air-conditioning in Queensland schools. As [Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act] State School and [Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act] State School fall within the North Coast Region your email has been forwarded to me for response to you.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment requires schools to make adjustments to ensure all students are able to participate in education. The Department provides a range of support services and resources to assist teachers to meet the diverse educational needs of all students. The more significant the educational need, the more support is required to ensure students can access, participate and achieve quality outcomes.

Schools are supported through a combination of teachers, specialist staff from the special education program, support teachers, teacher aides, visiting advisory specialists and guidance officers to collaboratively support educational programs for students. Principals are responsible for the resources provided to their school to support the educational programs of all students. I encourage you to meet with the Principal to discuss the educational needs of your son.

Air conditioning of state schools in hottest and most humid parts of Queensland has been a priority for the Department in recent years. Schools in the south east corner of the state often utilise funding from their own budgets or other fund-raising initiatives to install air conditioning. The department does not support a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to air conditioning as many schools also incorporate passive cooling measures in school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Should you wish to view the department's guidelines for school principals during high temperature or heatwave conditions, these are available within the Managing Excessive Heat in Schools policy as per the following link -

<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Managing-Excessive-Heat-in-Schools.aspx>

Should you wish to discuss this matter further I invite you to contact Ms Wendy Blandford on telephone 3881 9600.

Thank you once again for bringing your concerns to the Department's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Peach".

**Greg Peach**  
Regional Director  
North Coast Region

Ref: 12/465521

Education Queensland provides a quality public education system that delivers opportunities for all students to achieve learning outcomes and reach their potential.

North Coast Region  
Ogg Road Murrumba Downs  
Queensland 4503 Australia  
**Telephone 07 3881 9600**  
**Facsimile 07 3881 9650**  
**Website** [www.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.education.qld.gov.au)  
ABN 76 337 613 647

## Rebecca Beaumont

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**From:** Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 December 2012 9:51 PM  
**To:** Education  
**Subject:** Extreme weather

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Corro

Dear Mr Langbroek,

I would just like to let you know by 11.40am today it was 36.5 degrees in my classroom. I work as a [redacted] teacher at Bundaberg West State School [redacted]. We are a National Partnership school in a very low socioeconomic area, only our new library and administration building have air conditioning. No child or adult for that matter should be expected to work in a classroom that is so hot. Queensland is getting hotter during Spring and Summer and I would like to know what the government is doing to make schools cooler places to work during these times. Is there a maximum temperature that children are expected to work in? I know the weather is extreme at the moment but even when we have 'normal' temperatures for the season our classrooms are still very hot, mine has been 28 a 32 degrees for the past four weeks. Many thanks for taking the time to read this email, I look forward to receiving a reply.

Regards

[redacted] Teacher, Bundaberg West State School

Sent from my iPad

12/464508

Information deleted pursuant to s

Teacher, Bundaberg West State School

Email: Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2)

Dear Information deleted pursuant

Thank you for your email dated 5 December 2012 to the Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education, Training and Employment, regarding the installation of air-conditioning in Queensland state schools. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

My Department has a policy of air-conditioning schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the State, in what is referred to as the *Cooler Schools* zone. The Bundaberg region is not part of the *Cooler Schools* zone.

It is recognised that students and staff in remaining parts of the State may experience a degree of discomfort on very hot days. The Department incorporates passive cooling measures in its school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Building orientation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans are among such measures.

Schools also use strategies to minimise the risk of student or staff illness on extremely hot days. These measures include allowing students to take water bottles into classrooms, rescheduling or postponing certain outdoor activities until the temperature is more suitable, and staff issuing daily reminders to students to drink plenty of water and remain in shaded areas during breaks. Classroom teachers and teachers on playground duty take extra care to observe children and to immediately respond to symptoms of heat stress.

Many communities outside the *Cooler Schools* zone have elected to air-condition some, or all, classroom spaces either through funding provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association or by using their annual minor works allocation. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level, taking into account such matters as increased power costs and impact on the environment. The Department is unable to provide supplementation of school budgets to install air-conditioning in classrooms outside the *Cooler Schools* zone.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Joe Willis, Director, Infrastructure Strategy by email at [Joe.F.Willis@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:Joe.F.Willis@dete.qld.gov.au) or on telephone 3237 1902.

Yours sincerely

**FIONA CRAWFORD**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Ref: 12/475688

12/480310



## FUNG, Audrey

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**From:** Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 December 2012 7:38 PM  
**To:** INFOMNGT, Corporate Correspondence  
**Subject:** Question submitted by [redacted] (member of public) to EQ

Question submitted by [redacted] (member of the public) to EQ

Irrelevant information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of the RTI Act

Question theme: School air-conditioning

Main question: I attended Wishart State School today to visit my grand-daughter for grandparents day. Why is there no air-conditioning? Don't you care about the children's welfare or the teacher who is pregnant? Does the Minister, Director-General and all the education staff have air-conditioning? Air-conditioning in Queensland is not a luxury, it is a must. Why is my grand-daughter being disadvantaged?

Message received from [redacted] at 05-Dec-2012 19:37:56 Referrer URL:  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/corporate/about/feedback/ask-question.html>

This message was delivered to: -  
Corporate Correspondence, Services and Support <<mailto:corporatecorrespondence@deta.qld.gov.au>>

Information - Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of

Dear [Information deleted pursuant to s 72(2) of]

Thank you for your email dated 5 December 2012 regarding Wishart State School. I note your concern that your grand-daughter is being disadvantaged as air conditioning has not been installed at the school.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment has a policy of providing air conditioning to all state schools in the hottest and most humid parts of Queensland in what is referred to as the *Cooler Schools* zone, as indicated on the attached map. The *Cooler Schools* zone was developed to include those state schools in areas of Queensland which experience a large number of high temperature days potentially creating discomfort for students in their classrooms and affecting their ability to learn.

All Queensland state schools use various strategies to minimise the risk of student or staff illness on extremely hot days. These measures include allowing students to take water bottles into classrooms, rescheduling or postponing certain outdoor activities until the temperature is more suitable, and staff issuing daily reminders to students to drink plenty of water and remain in shaded areas during breaks. Classroom teachers and teachers on playground duty take extra care to observe students and to respond immediately to symptoms of heat stress.

Many communities outside the *Cooler Schools* zone have elected to air condition some, or all, classroom spaces either through funding provided by the Parents and Citizens' Association or by using their annual minor works allocation. This is a matter for prioritisation at the school level, taking into account such matters as increased power costs and impact on the environment. The Department is unable to provide supplementation of school budgets to install air conditioning in classrooms outside the *Cooler Schools* zone.

I understand that one classroom at Wishart State School, previously the library, is air-conditioned. The Parents and Citizens Association is currently raising funds for the provision of an air-conditioning unit in the ICT Lab and work area of the new Resource Centre.

The Department incorporates passive cooling measures in its school designs to reduce temperatures inside classrooms. Building orientation, shade from direct sunlight, good ventilation and ceiling fans are among such measures.

While this may not be the response you are seeking, I trust this information will clarify the Department's position on air conditioning in schools.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Ms Yolanda Tognini, Principal of Wishart State School on telephone 3849 0555 or by email to [the.principal@wishartss.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@wishartss.eq.edu.au).

Thank you for contacting the Department with your concern for the welfare of the students of Wishart State School.

Yours sincerely

**Karen Howes**  
Assistant Regional Director  
Metropolitan Primary  
Metropolitan Region

Enc: Cooler Schools Zone map

Ref: 12/461949

12/471719