

Infrastructure

Fact Sheet

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Infrastructure

Infrastructure is one of the seven key priorities for the Department of Education and Training as we continue to deliver the best possible teaching and learning environments to help every student reach their full potential.

The 2009–10 State budget allocated a record budget of more than \$2 billion to continue to modernise and build schools across Queensland. This includes \$1.16 billion for school infrastructure under the Australian Government's *Building the Education Revolution*.

Building the Education Revolution

The *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) program is part of the Australian Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. The \$16.2 billion BER program has the dual objectives of:

- providing a stimulus to the national economy by creating jobs through the construction and refurbishment of schools.
- building facilities that enhance learning opportunities, support achievement and bring communities together.

The key elements of the BER program are:

- Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21): Funding of \$14.1 billion to build or refurbish large-scale facilities, such as libraries and multi-purpose halls, in Australian primary, P-12 and special schools.
- Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools (SLC): Funding of \$822 million to build science laboratories and language learning centres in secondary schools across the country.
- National School Pride (NSP): Funding of \$1.3 billion to refurbish and renew existing facilities and minor building works in Australian government and non-government schools.

The Australian Government has approved BER funding of \$2.1 billion for 4915 projects in all Queensland state schools as follows:

- P21: \$1.8 billion for 1664 projects in 1080 state primary, P-10/12 and special schools



- SLC: \$155.3 million for science and/or language centres in 94 state high schools
- NSP: \$165.5 million for 3157 projects in Queensland's 1259 state schools.

Tomorrow's Schools/State Schools of Tomorrow

The quality of the schools in which our children learn is one of the most important influences on their education.

Through our Department's \$1 billion *Tomorrow's Schools* program we are modernising our schools in need of major renewal and giving Queenslanders the chance to help shape the future of education in their local communities.

The *Tomorrow's Schools* program includes the landmark \$850 million five-year *State Schools of Tomorrow* (SSoT) initiative for major renewal of state schools and creating 21st century schools. SSoT includes a \$50 million *School Community Development Fund* shared among all state schools for projects that improve school learning environments. The initiative not only gives us an unprecedented opportunity to plan the future of education and undertake major renewal and modernisation of state schools, it has seen an unprecedented level of parental and local community involvement.

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SSoT round one focuses on groups of schools with shared enrolment boundaries that are also in greatest need of major renewal. The results will be the renewal of whole school sites with new and upgraded facilities comparable with those in new schools, a new educational vision for the future and the potential to boost student learning.

Major projects in round one are at Innisfail (\$36.7 million), Inala (\$69.5 million), Eastern Ipswich (\$134.1 million) and Brisbane Bayside (\$150 million).

SSoT round two focuses on schools across the state rather than in community clusters. The \$200 million round two SSoT Classroom Renewal program aims to apply new school standards to older school facilities and upgrade schools to better align with these standards. The focus will be on improving the quality and function of classrooms, specialist teaching areas, libraries/resource centres and computer rooms in school buildings built before 1988.

State Schools of Tomorrow supports the Department's long-term educational vision of choice and excellence in state education, local collaboration and sustainability.

School maintenance

Maintaining our schools to ensure the safety of our school communities and the best possible teaching and learning environments is a major departmental priority. Our 2009–10 school maintenance budget of \$126.1 million includes the redirection of \$45 million from the *State Schools of Tomorrow* (SSoT) program. The maintenance budget comprises \$76.2 million from the Annual Maintenance program, \$45 million from the SSoT External Finishes program and \$4.9 million from the Targeted Building Maintenance program.

Maintenance programs include the External Finishes program, the Targeted, Reticulation and Swimming Pool programs and Asbestos Flooring Replacement program.

Our schools are regularly monitored and school maintenance issues identified to ensure efficiencies in this important area.

Cost savings through bulk purchasing

The Department is driving cost efficiencies in our capital works program. This includes coordinating bulk purchasing across state and non-state schools and TAFE institutes. Cost savings, channelled into priority capital works areas, directly benefit students across Queensland.

Bulk purchasing arrangements introduced in 2009 include the Solar and Energy Efficiency program, preferred supplier arrangements for supply of relocatable buildings and for repair of cleaning equipment used in schools, and preferred supplier arrangements for carpet cleaning in schools.

DET is also involved in the whole-of-Government Standing Offer Arrangement for supply of furniture, with considerable savings expected to be made in the purchase of school furniture.

Our priorities

The Department of Education and Training has seven overarching key priorities that focus on:

1. Early Childhood Education and Care
2. Student and School Performance
3. Teaching and Learning
4. Training and Skilling Queensland
5. Infrastructure
6. Workplace Reform
7. Policy Development

For more information on each of the seven key priorities and other DET services please visit our website at www.deta.qld.gov.au or email comments to inquiries@deta.qld.gov.au

