

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question NoEW0147_11

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

**USE OF BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION FUNDS FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF WATER TANKS**

The Department has previously stated that state governments must not use BER grants allocated to schools to pay for resources or infrastructure the state government would normally be responsible for. If this is the case, why is the South Australian Government allowed to force schools to use their BER grants to construct water storage tanks?

Answer

Under the BER Guidelines water tanks can be funded as part of the project, either because they are required by building regulations or to contribute to the sustainability of the building.

State and territory governments are required to maintain their own capital investment in schools in addition to the funding being provided under BER and it is at their discretion to redirect their funding to other priority projects as determined by them and their school communities.

All Education Authorities must maintain records and report to the Commonwealth on planned and actual capital expenditure for each school within their jurisdiction.