

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0152_11

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

**BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION COMPENSATION FOR BUILDING
PLAN AMENDMENTS**

What compensation or support will the department be offering to these schools, given that they will now be forced to amend their building plans to take this extra cost into account, and may not be able to afford the buildings their students need?

Answer

The South Australian Department of Education and Children Services (DECS), has advised that:

- Compensation is not offered as building is proceeding in line with plans and ensuring compliance with the relevant building code, legislation and policy.
- In the case of Basket Range Primary School only the school was required to re-scope the project following advice from the builder that the cost of the project would exceed the budget.
- DECS policy requires any school assessed to have a bushfire risk rating of "high" to conduct a review of the site's bushfire resistance and design any new facilities to meet the new bushfire construction standards.
- Schools in the Adelaide Hills (Yankalilla Area School, Basket Range Primary School, Stirling East Primary School, Macclesfield Primary School, and Eden Hills Primary School) have all been assessed with a bushfire rating of 'high' or above.

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