

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

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

**Outcome 2 - Schools**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0361\_11**

**Senator Williams asked on 3/06/2010, Hansard page 28.**

**Question**

**BUNDARRASCHOOL**

Senator WILLIAMS—Do schools have access to grants to assist in those program?  
Ms Paul—I am not sure about that particular school [Bundarra], and if you would like, we could take it on notice. For example, depending on what it is and where it is and who it is looking after, it may well be receiving money through some of the national partnerships and so on. If you would like us to take that question about that particular school on notice, we can.

Senator WILLIAMS—That would be good. I cite Delungra but there are many small regional areas, towns and small schools where obviously this would have been of great assistance to them. Now it is gone, and I am sure they have concerns about that.

Ms Paul-Yes.

Ms Wall—There is also often some contingency funding within the department of education for the jurisdiction to support a whole range of means which the school can draw on. As Ms Paul said, if we take the name of the school that you are interested in and follow up, we are more than happy to find that out for you.

Senator WILLIAMS—Yes, if you could please; they are Bundarra and Delungra.

Ms Wall—Okay.

Senator WILLIAMS—Even schools like Bingara and Barraba; those four would give me a good idea— Bingara, Barraba, Delungra and Bundarra.

Ms Paul—Whereabouts are they?

Senator WILLIAMS—In northern New South Wales; the New England and north-west plains areas, where there is severe drought, even though it was raining yesterday. Lots more would be very welcome.

**Answer**

To be eligible for *Drought Assistance for Schools* funding rural and remote, government and non-government schools must be located in areas declared as being in Exceptional Circumstances due to the effects of drought as at 1 January in the funding year. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is responsible for determining the Exceptional Circumstance areas in Australia.

In 2010 the New England region was not declared an Exceptional Circumstance area. Bingara, Barraba, Delungra and Bundarra schools are therefore not eligible for *Drought Assistance for Schools* funding in 2010.