

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 2 - Schools and Youth

DEEWR Question No. EW0238_14

Senator Mason asked on 6 June 2013, Hansard page 8

Question

BER - P21 forecast completion dates

Senator MASON: That would be delightful. The next question is a very obvious one: can we ever expect them to be finished, or is this the Great Wall of China? Ms Smith: I have expected completion dates for all of the remaining 31 projects and can give you details of those if you would like. Senator MASON: Is that for all 31 as a group or individually? Ms Smith: I have them by the education sector. There is one project in the ACT—the Aranda Steiner school— Senator MASON: Let me just get my pen. Ms Paul: I presume these are estimates received from the authorities. Ms Smith: The relevant authorities, yes. Senator MASON: So this is not a time table but an aspiration, is it? Ms Paul: I think this is an estimate by an education authority. Senator MASON: Not again! Ms Paul: Not our estimates. Senator MASON: Not yours; all right. Ms Smith: As Ms Paul has said, they are forecast completion dates. Broadly by quarter, we have nine of the 31 expected to be completed by the end of this month, four by September 2013—they are all this year with the exception of four— Senator MASON: Are you sure? That is very— Ms Smith: 14 by December 2013 and a further four by the first quarter in 2014. As Ms Paul said, these are projects that have been managed by education authorities, grant authorities or state governments. They provide us with their scheduling. There are a range of factors as to why some of the scheduling varies. There might be a re-scoping of the project or a new architect brought on. There are a range of reasons. I actually have reasons attached to all of the remaining 31 projects, if you are interested. Senator MASON: After several years of this, forgive me but I am beyond interest at this stage. Although, I am sure the committee has no problem with you giving that information to the committee. That would probably be the fair thing to do. Ms Paul: Presumably, these are the reasons given to us by the relevant education authorities. Senator MASON: Perhaps we do not need to read it into the transcript at this stage, Ms Smith. That might be a little bit indulgent. Giving it to us on notice is fine, Ms Paul. If there is a written document that you can lay your hands on, that would be fine. Ms Paul: We will take that on notice. Ms Smith: If I may, I would like to say that all of the projects—the remaining 31—have commenced. They are all under way. I just need to let you know that, as well. Senator MASON: Thank God for small mercies, Ms Smith! Have any of the forecast completion dates mentioned previously been changed? Have we had any further blow-outs in completion dates, Ms Smith? Ms Smith: There have been some that have changed for the sorts of reasons that I mentioned. I will give you an example. The Tongala Primary School, is a round-3 project which has been delayed. It was one of those that we originally thought were completing in April, but it was forecast to have been completed two months later. Senator MASON: So there is a range? Ms Smith: That is the nature of the sorts of details that I have on each of these 31 projects. Senator MASON: So, some time, by

the end of the first quarter next year, they may all be finished? We should have a little party to celebrate, Ms Smith! I suspect it will be a big day when they are all finished. You will let me know when they are finished, will you not? Ms Smith: I am sure that we will let the committee know; yes.

Answer

As at 11 July 2013 there are 28 projects yet to complete under the *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* (P21) element of the Building the Education Revolution program. Education Authorities have advised DEEWR of the following reasons for the delay in the completion of these projects.

BER Projects Under Construction as at 11 July 2013

| Round | Education Authority | School Name | Forecast Completion Date | Summary of Advice from Education Authority |
|-------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| R1 | NSW Government | Holman Place School (School for Specific Purposes) ¹ | 28/07/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. The forecast completion date takes into account delays due to wet weather. |
| R1 | NSW Independent | Bellfield College ² | 15/09/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project was delayed as a result of planning issues between local authorities. |
| R1 | NSW Independent | Bellfield College | 15/09/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project was delayed as a result of planning issues between local authorities. |
| R1 | NSW Independent | Georges River Grammar | 31/07/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forecast completion date takes into account minor delays with issuing of the occupancy certificate by local authorities. |
| R1 | VIC Government | Avenel Primary School | 25/07/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project was delayed because of unacceptable tender returns and placed on hold until costs could be reduced. |

¹ Schools for Specific Purposes or SSPs are for students from Pre-school to Year 12 who require intensive levels of support. Source: www.schools.nsw.edu.au

² Bellfield College received two P21 projects from Round 1, Project No 12914 & 21915, which are both due to complete by 30 June 2013.

| Round | Education Authority | School Name | Forecast Completion Date | Summary of Advice from Education Authority |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| R2 | NSW Government | Anson Street School (SSP) | 08/10/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • Project is progressing well. |
| R2 | NSW Government | Cromehurst School (SSP) | 29/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • Project was delayed due to the need to relocate the students to another site to ensure their safety. |
| R2 | NSW Government | Five Islands School (SSP) | 20/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • Project is progressing well. |
| R2 | NSW Government | Hunter River Community School (SSP) | 31/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • Project is progressing well. |
| R2 | NSW Government | Kandeer School (SSP) | 31/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in November 2012. • Project is progressing well. |
| R2 | NSW Government | Para Meadow School (SSP) | 31/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • Project is progressing well. |
| R2 | NSW Government | Wewak Street School (SSP) | 29/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project as agreed in August 2012. • The forecast completion date takes into account delays with planning approval at the local authority level. |
| R2 | NSW Independent | Al Amanah College | 15/09/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project was delayed as a result of planning issues at the local level. |
| R2 | VIC Government | Aurora School | 18/07/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project was delayed due to siting issues. |

| Round | Education Authority | School Name | Forecast Completion Date | Summary of Advice from Education Authority |
|-------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| R3 | NSW Government | Caroline Chisholm School (SSP) | 27/11/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | Bates Drive School (SSP) | 31/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | G S Kidd Memorial School (SSP) | 29/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. The forecast completion date takes into account the need to engage another building contractor due to the original contractor entering into voluntary administration. |
| R3 | NSW Government | Gateshead West Public School ³ | 01/11/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in November 2012. Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | Holroyd School (SSP) | 29/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | Karonga School (SSP) | 01/10/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | Kurrabee School (SSP) | 29/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | The Crescent School (SSP) | 31/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. Project is progressing well. |

³ Project being undertaken on behalf of a School for Specific Purposes.

| Round | Education Authority | School Name | Forecast Completion Date | Summary of Advice from Education Authority |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| R3 | NSW Government | Wairoa School (SSP) | 29/11/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • Project is progressing well. |
| R3 | NSW Government | William Rose School (SSP) | 29/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in November 2012. • The forecast completion date takes into account the Education Authority undertaking additional works with the approval of the school. |
| R3 | NSW Government | Wilson Park School (SSP) | 22/01/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement project was agreed in August 2012. • The forecast completion date takes into account the Education Authority undertaking additional works with the approval of the school. |
| R3 | NSW Independent | Minimbah Primary School | 31/12/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department and Education Authority are working through options to complete the project. |
| R3 | VIC Independents | Geelong Baptist College | 30/08/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The forecast completion date takes into account delays in the building contractor reorganising building teams to complete the works. |

| Round | Education Authority | School Name | Forecast Completion Date | Summary of Advice from Education Authority |
|-------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| R3 | QLD Independent | Maridahdi Early Childhood Community School | 7/10/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was delayed due to the school having extensive and ongoing land acquisition/approval issues. • The forecast completion date takes into account that the project was unable to commence until an upgrade to Council sewer infrastructure was completed. |