

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0150_11

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

**EXISTING ABOVE GROUND WATER TANKS AT BASKETRANGEPRIMARY
SCHOOL**

There is also the case of BasketRangePrimary School, where the school already had both under and above ground water tanks in place for fire fighting. They were forced to install a second set of similar tanks using their BER money. Is the department aware of this, and does the department feel it is an appropriate use of taxpayer money?

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.

The South Australian Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) has advised that the static water supply tanks for fire fighting purposes were recently installed through the normal SA (DECS) Capital Program. The new tanks which are being delivered under the BER Program are not static water supply tanks for fire fighting purposes.

BasketRangePrimary School's only water supply is via a bore. SA DECS have indicated that the new BER buildings are located over the existing pump shed and tanks (for the roof sprinkler system), making it necessary to replace/relocate this provision. As a result the builder has provided 2 x 22 000 litre water tanks, which are sufficient to operate the new building's roof sprinkler system for one hour.