

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

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

Outcome 2 - Schools

DEEWR Question No.EW0149_11

Senator Xenophon provided in writing.

Question

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

It has also been noted that, on catastrophic bushfire days when there is most likely to be a bushfire, these primary schools will be closed. Therefore, the tanks are most likely to be used to protect the local community. Is it fair that these schools use money allocated to them by the federal government for new buildings to construct water tanks for the benefit of the community?

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; and
- schools agree to provide access at no, or low, cost to the community to libraries and multipurpose halls funded under the Primary Schools for the 21st Century element of the BER. This must include reasonable access by any community or not-for-profit groups in the local community.