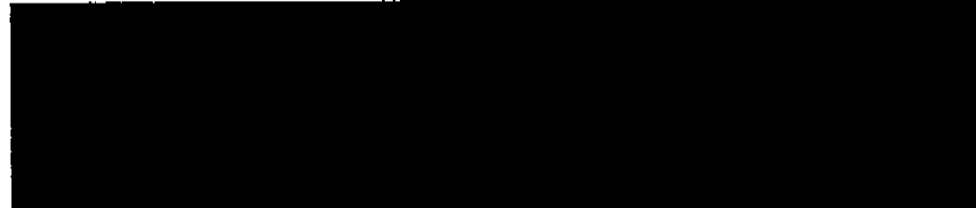
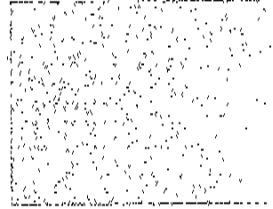




Australian Government



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TASMANIA
BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Introduction

1. This template enables State and Territory Governments and Block Grant Authorities to provide information to the Australian Government on the implementation of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program. BER complements existing and planned investments by states and territories and non-government systems and schools.

The three elements of BER are:

- (a) \$12.4 billion for Primary Schools for the 21st Century – all Australian primary schools, K-12 schools (primary school component) and special schools will be eligible to apply for funding to build new iconic facilities such as libraries and multipurpose halls or to upgrade existing facilities.
- (b) \$1 billion for Science and Language Centres for the 21st Century Secondary Schools – all secondary schools are eligible to apply for funding, on a competitive basis, for the construction of new science laboratories or language learning centres.
 - (i) \$1.288 billion for the National School Pride program – all schools in Australia, government and non-government, will be eligible to apply for funding for minor capital works and maintenance projects.

2. As BER is a critical component of the Australian Government's economic stimulus package it is essential that construction and maintenance work commences as quickly as possible.

3. This Implementation Template forms part of the bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and [State/Territory/BGA].

4. These implementation arrangements will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and the other Party signs bilateral will be subject to re-negotiation as agreed by both parties from time to time, and will expire on 31 December 2012, or earlier termination as agreed in writing by the Parties.

Commencing Projects

5. Outline how you will call for, assess, prioritise and select projects to meet the requirements of each of the three elements of BER?

Initial Response by Department of Education

On 17 February 2009, the Premier of Tasmania and the Minister for Education and Skills, the Hon David Bartlett, convened a meeting of all Government School Principals, Learning Services General Managers, key administrators of the Department of Education (DoE), and Chairs of School Associations to consider the BER and its requirements.

Held in Launceston, the purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness of the program guidelines, the quantum of funding available, program timeframes, the application process, and construction priorities.

Schools were informed of the extremely tight timelines and the requirement to commence infrastructure projects as quickly as possible to have the greatest impact on job creation and stimulating the Australian and Tasmanian economies. In this context, schools were informed that DoE will be capitalising on the use of a recent application process for projects submitted by schools and prioritised by Learning Service Works Committees. This process was undertaken in a fully consultative way and involved numerous site visits by the assessment committee to enable potential projects to be prioritised for funding when it became available. All applications received which include libraries and multi-purpose halls have been considered and assessed against the BER stated priorities, and schools will not be asked to submit separate applications for these projects. This will ensure that projects put forward for funding under Round 1 are ready to start construction by June 2009.

(a) Primary Schools for the 21st Century

Application Process

To supplement the list of already identified eligible projects and to develop projects for funding under Rounds 2 and 3, a simple two-page Expression of Interest (EoI) has been developed for access through the DoE Intranet site. The application form 'went live' on 17 February 2009. Principals have subsequently been advised through a series of specific communication notices of the availability of the form and of the application closing dates of 25 February 2009 for Round 1, and 24 March 2009 for Rounds 2 and 3. These dates were set earlier than the DEEWR timeframes, to ensure that schools focus on their project requirements immediately, without delay, and also to ensure that there is scope for some slippage and further detailed consultation where schools may be considering amalgamating or cooperating differently on educational program delivery.

Advice and assistance to schools is being provided by staff of the Capital Planning and Development Section. A Hotline has been established for schools to make enquiries about the guidelines, potential projects, processes and timeframes.

Assessment Process

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Project lists will be compiled based on applications received from schools. These will be prioritised by the Capital Planning and Development Section based on set parameters including status of project development and assessed capacity to meet construction start timeframes - with 'spade-ready' projects given priority on the list.

The list of recommended projects will be considered by Learning Services General Managers in each office to ensure there is strategic alignment with broad plans for educational services in the regions. In Tasmania there are four Learning Services operations as below:

Office	General Manager
Learning Services North	Liz Banks
Learning Services South	Brendan Kelly
Learning Services South East	Lyndon Leppard
Learning Services North West	Malcolm Wells

Project recommendations will be endorsed by the department's Asset Strategy Steering Committee (ASSC) which has overall responsibility for providing strategic oversight and direction to agency activities related to planning, monitoring and implementing asset management and maintenance. Architects have already been assigned to schools in some instances to complete concept designs and documentation.

A list of endorsed projects will be submitted to DEEWR in advance of the deadline of 10 April 2009 for Round 1 projects, and 8 May and 10 July respectively for Rounds 2 and 3 projects.

b) Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools

Note: Similar roll-out process to above.

A separate two-page Expression of Interest (EoI) has been developed for the Science and Language component. The application form 'went live' on 17 February 2009. Schools have until 24 March 2009 to apply for funding under the program. These dates were set earlier than the DEEWR timeframes, to ensure that schools focus on their project requirements immediately, without delay, and also to ensure that there is scope for some slippage and further detailed consultation where schools may be considering amalgamating or cooperating differently on educational program delivery.

Advice, assistance and hotline arrangements are the same as outlined above.

Assessment Process

Project lists will be compiled based on applications received from schools. These will be assessed and prioritised by the Learning Services General Managers in each office and endorsed by the Asset Strategy Steering Committee for submission to DEEWR in advance of the required date of 31 May 2009 for submission of lists to the Commonwealth.

(c) National School Pride program

Note: Similar roll-out process to above.

A separate two-page Expression of Interest (Eoi) has been developed for the National School Pride program. The application form for Round 1 'went live' on 17 February 2009. Those schools in advanced stages of planning have until 25 February 2009 to apply for funding under Round 1 of the program. Applications for funding under Round 2 will open on 3 March 2009 and close on 24 March 2009. These dates were set earlier than the DEEWR timeframes, to ensure that schools focus on their project requirements immediately, without delay, and also to ensure that there is scope for some slippage and further detailed consultation where schools may be considering amalgamating or cooperating differently on educational program delivery

Advice, assistance and hotline arrangements are the same as outlined above.

Assessment Process

Project lists will be compiled based on applications received from schools. These will be assessed initially by the Capital Planning and Development Section working in conjunction with the Facility and Property Management Section. Learning Services General Managers in each office will receive recommendations which will be endorsed by the Asset Strategy Steering Committee prior to submission to DEEWR before 24 March for Round 1 projects, and before 8 May 2009 for Round 2 projects

6. What strategies will be used to fast track application and assessment outcomes?

The department is in the process of appointing an off-line BER Implementation Team to fast track application processes and assessment outcomes as well as project managing the BER projects. Until this team can be fully operational, the immediate project requirements are being undertaken by the existing staff of the Finance Facilities and Business Support Branch which incorporates the Capital Planning and Development, Facility and Property Management, and Budget and Resources Sections.

Staff of these sections are currently responding to the immediate project requirements of implementing the application and assessment process and responding to queries from schools and the general public. Some staff have been able to proceed off-line effective 23 February 2009.

7. Outline how you will manage applications from schools marked for closure or for merger?

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Tasmania has only one school which may close. A decision date has been set for Easter 2009 with the decision to be dependant on the number of students enrolled at that time. Accordingly, any BER funding decisions will be able to be made after Easter 2009 to coincide with later funding rounds. Schools have been encouraged to consider mergers with the added impetus of BER funding. At this stage all mergers in Tasmania will be voluntary and the decision making includes the pooling of available BER resources for expenditure on the site which will house the merged schools. DoE Tas does not anticipate any difficulties regarding applications for funding from these schools. The challenges will be the BER timelines.

Project Management

8. What ongoing project management of each project will be offered?

In anticipation of the Rudd Stimulus Package gaining Senate approval, the Department of Education on 14 February 2009 advertised a number of Senior Project Officer positions in newspapers across the state and in the Tasmanian Government Gazette.

The closing date for applications is 27 February 2009. There is no Appeal provision attached to these fixed-term appointments (12 months - 2 years) which might otherwise have held up the selection and recruitment process.

The Senior Project Officers within the Team will act as 'Project Coordinators' for projects across the State. They will have regional responsibility for managing teams of architects and contractors and ensuring that BER program guidelines and timeframes are met. They will also have responsibility for ensuring that reporting to the Commonwealth is undertaken in a routine and timely way through the use of designated administration staff.

Each project will be managed using current systems and processes utilised by the Capital Planning and Development Section to ensure that projects are completed within the timeframes and to budget.

Architectural Consultants will be appointed using the State Department of Treasury and Finance list of pre-qualified Consultants. This ensures an element of quality assurance which will be needed for the larger infrastructure projects especially. They will be engaged under *AS4122 - 2000 General Conditions for Engagement of Consultants*. As the Principal Consultant, the architectural consultants

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will be responsible for the engagement, supervision and co-ordination of all sub-consultants involved in the commission, including quantity surveyors, engineers, landscape and acoustic designers.

Depending upon the number and location of applications received and accepted for funding, it is envisaged that projects at individual schools will be 'batched' and assigned to architects or groups of architects who will be responsible to the DoE Project Coordinators to finalise designs based around standard templates wherever practicable.

Selected consultants will be responsible for managing construction contractors and all events, timeframes, critical dates and project cashflows. Consultants will also be responsible for reviewing the design, construction and educational effectiveness of the new facility upon expiry of the defects liability period of the project.

Procurement and regulatory arrangements are currently being considered to ensure that unnecessary "red tape" can be avoided wherever possible to speed up these projects. The packaging of projects to optimise procurement arrangements across the building and construction industry will also be considered to get the best possible outcomes to ensure that the BER timelines can be met.

9. What project management approach will be adopted?

The Department of Education recognises that the total funding available to DoE for government schools represents the greatest school modernisation program in Tasmania's history. The department has responded to the challenging timeframe and overall task by appointing a separate and discrete Implementation Team to oversee the BER project.

Headed by Andrew Finch, the current Director of the Finance, Facilities and Business Support Branch, the Implementation Team includes Catherine Parker as Line Manager (Building the Education Revolution Program), Michelle Foster as Finance Manager (Capital Works and Maintenance), and several project coordinators to be based in the north, north west and southern Tasmania. (Ref: 8.)

The department generally uses the Tasmanian Government Project Management Framework which provides guidelines, templates and tools based on the PMBOK approach to project management. Consultant Commissioning Briefs are provided for each project which detail the activities, tasks, milestones and resources of a project, as well as the contractual obligations of the Department of Education and the consultant.

10. How will you ensure every school can maximise opportunities under BER? How will you assist smaller or less resourced schools/communities to participate?

Every government school is being encouraged to apply for funding under the program. Smaller and less resourced schools are being provided with assistance and advice at the preliminary stage of

applying for funds, and will be supported through assigning architectural consultants through the design, documentation, construction and completion phases.

Building

11. List the design templates to be used (and attach copies for the Commonwealth), or if design templates are not being used detail why this is reasonable and appropriate

Design templates have been developed for multi-purpose halls and gyms. Further consideration is being given to the use of standard designs of other facilities such as libraries. However, due to the individual nature of school buildings in Tasmania and the absence of standard plans for schools, standard design principles will be used rather than a specific standard template. Initial design templates have already been submitted to DEEWR.

The following design templates will be used and adapted to sites as required (within available budgets):

1. Small multi-purpose facility incorporating two general areas with flexibility provided through using an operable wall between the two spaces. This design of 303.89 m² incorporates male and female WCs, disability access WC, mobile stage facility, canteen, and storage with access from a covered way.
2. Medium size multi-purpose centre incorporating a combined volleyball / basketball / indoor netball court, with line markings to facilitate three badminton courts. This design, with a nett floor area of 895m² and a nominal minimum ceiling height of 7.5m is designed with a run-off area, room for seating, a canteen, separate storerooms, male and female changerooms and WCs, and disability access change / WC.
3. Large size multi-purpose centre / gym facility incorporating line markings for volleyball, badminton, basketball, and netball. This facility, with a larger run-off area than the medium size building, will provide a nett floor area of 1,035 m² and a nominal minimum ceiling height of 8.3m with provision for seating, canteen for preparing and serving food, storerooms, disability access WC and separate male and female changerooms / WCs.

12. How will sustainable building principles be incorporated into construction, refurbishments and maintenance, wherever possible.

The Department of Education is developing a strategy for incorporating ESD principles and objectives into the design and build of new and refurbished schools and facilities. In the interim, consultants are

advised that all project initiatives must incorporate fundamental energy and water conservation and solar design principles where possible.

The strategy under development recognises that buildings that demonstrate good environmental principles and practices are learning tools in themselves and can be important in developing a culture of sustainability in those students and others using the facilities.

Consultants are also advised that materials and methods of construction must be selected to achieve optimum balance between capital cost, careful material use / reuse and selection, and recurrent maintenance obligations.

The Community

13. Outline the steps to be taken to achieve broad community consultation, including incorporating the views of relevant Principals, Parents and Citizens or Parents and Friends groups, on work to be undertaken?

On 17 February 2009, the Premier of Tasmania and the Minister for Education and Skills, the Hon David Bartlett, convened a meeting of all Government School Principals, Learning Services General Managers, key administrators of the Department of Education (DoE), and Chairs of School Associations to consider the BER and its requirements.

A section of the application forms DoE has developed for BER asks that the School Principal verifies that the project put forward by the school for funding has the endorsement of the relevant School Association. Consultation with the school community on design and documentation will be undertaken by the consulting architect wherever practicable.

14. Outline how you will ensure new and refurbished facilities in primary schools will be available for broad community use at no cost or low cost?

In May 2006 the Minister for Education engaged the Engaging Our Schools Communities Taskforce. The Taskforce examined how schools and their facilities may be opened up to connect them with their local community. The Government accepted the recommendations that schools be made more accessible to communities and schools have been asked to ensure that this occurs. DoE Tas is also working with Sport and Recreation Tas to consider the implementation of a public liability cover for community groups using schools as this has been one of the major barriers limiting use in the past. The BER requirements in this area will continue to be brought to the attention of schools and will be made part of the final project reporting.

15. Will you undertake data entry on your school projects?

(a) If yes, how will this be achieved? Or

(b) If not, how will you ensure your schools meet all data entry requirement as required?

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DoE will undertake all data entry on school projects centrally. Project status reporting and documentation and reporting to DEEWR will be the responsibility of the new BER Implementation Team.

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