

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY QUESTION

Question No. **53, Michael Ferguson MP**

Question

- (1) Are any Government schools in the three townships of Scottsdale, Midway Point and Smithton using a service using the new National Broadband Network fibre and if so, which schools?
- (2) What speeds are each of those schools able to reliably access as at 17 May 2011?
- (3) When did each of these schools activate a connection?
- (4) What Retail Service Provider/s have been chosen by these schools and what has been the impact on the previous centrally-provided internet connections?
- (5) What will be the impact of the withdrawal of the so called "Connected Classrooms" initiative which had funding cut in the Mid Year Financial Report?
- (6) How has the opportunity provided by the National Broadband Network changed teaching methods and classroom utilisation of the internet? (17 May 2011)

Answered by:

The Hon Nick McKim MP – Minister for Education and Skills

- (1) No school in any of the three Stage 1 towns are using a production National Broadband Network (NBN) service. In early December 2010, the department reached agreement with NBN Co to trial an NBN service at Smithton High School until the State Government Wide Area Network communications providers became registered with NBN Co as Retail Service Providers. The department connected this trial NBN service into one computer lab. The majority of Smithton High School still use the government wide area network.

- (2) The trial NBN service at Smithton High School is a 25Mbps down and 2Mbps up.
- (3) The trial NBN service at Smithton High School was connected in early December 2010.
- (4) The trial NBN service at Smithton High School is via Internode. Currently none of the State Government Wide Area Network communications providers are registered with NBN Co as Retail Service Providers.
- (5) As the funds were to be made available in the 2011/12 Financial Year, there will be limited impact as no work had yet started on this project.
- (6) As we do not have any production NBN services this is not able to be assessed.