

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Finocchiaro to the Minister for Education:

#### Solar Panels in Schools

1. What Northern Territory schools use the most electricity? Please list the top 25.
  2. What schools will receive solar panels through the funding for rooftop solar allocated in the Budget? Please list by location.
  3. Will you publicize your electricity usage audit of Northern Territory Schools?
  4. Who will be responsible for the maintenance costs of the solar panels?
  5. Have you completed your installation policy for solar panels?
  6. Do any of your selected schools require structural improvements (for example, new roofs), in order to accommodate solar panels?
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#### ANSWER:

1. The following Northern Territory schools use the most electricity (in order):

<b>TOP 25 ENERGY USERS (Calendar Year 2017)</b>		
	School	Region
1	Casuarina Senior College	Darwin
2	Darwin High School	Darwin
3	Taminmin College	Palmerston and Rural
4	Palmerston Senior College	Palmerston and Rural
5	Katherine High School	Katherine
6	Bakewell Primary School	Palmerston and Rural
7	Sanderson Middle School	Darwin
8	Nightcliff Middle School	Darwin
9	Darwin Middle School	Darwin
10	Dripstone Middle School	Darwin
11	Nhulunbuy High School	Arnhem
12	Centralian Middle School	Alice Springs

<b>TOP 25 ENERGY USERS (Calendar Year 2017)</b>		
13	Nightcliff Primary School	Darwin
14	Centralian Senior College	Alice Springs
15	Woodroffe Primary School	Palmerston and Rural
16	Girraween Primary School	Palmerston and Rural
17	Nakara Primary School	Darwin
18	Durack Primary School	Palmerston and Rural
19	Bees Creek Primary School	Palmerston and Rural
20	Maningrida College	Arnhem
21	Gray Primary School	Palmerston and Rural
22	Leanyer Primary School	Darwin
23	Braitling Primary School	Alice Springs
24	Parap Primary School	Darwin
25	Driver Primary School	Palmerston and Rural

2. Round 1 will include 10 government schools for the 2018-19 \$1.5 million budget allocation. An announcement will be made once the 10 schools are identified. As these projects are progressed, scoping of works will be undertaken at additional schools until the \$5 million allocation is expended.
3. No. The Department of Education conducted an internal audit to identify the quantum of electricity expenditure for government schools. An assessment of the information enabled the department to identify and prioritise the top 25 energy users based on a school's electricity consumption.
4. The maintenance component is being considered as part of the development of a policy for schools regarding solar. It is expected that schools will be required to share some of the savings to cover a small maintenance component towards the solar panels based on a per cent/per kilowatt ratio.
5. The solar policy and procedures are being developed by the department to provide schools with clear direction on how solar systems will be managed within the department.

The development of the policy includes identifying the process of how schools acquire access to a power purchase agreement (a contractual arrangement) and/or outright purchase (the acquisition of assets), which creates a level of complexity as roles and responsibilities of the department and school councils and ongoing maintenance requirements will be different and need to be clearly explored and documented.

This policy is currently being drafted ready for consultation with schools. It is expected to be completed mid-October 2018.

6. The scoping of works will ensure that the correct sized solar panels are installed and an appropriate location is selected which is structurally sound. The initial scoping may identify any necessary additional requirements such as; roof upgrades, electrical switch board modifications, access requirements to be taken into consideration when installing the panels.