

# Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

## Response to Written Question

<b>Minister</b>	<b>The Hon Peter Chandler MLA</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Education</b>
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Department of Education</b>

<b>Question Reference</b>	<b>WQ322 – Power and Water Costs</b>
<b>From</b>	<b>Ms Nicole Manison MLA</b>

### Question

Power and Water Costs

1. How have global school budgets factored in the 5% increase for electricity, water and sewerage on 1 January 2015?

### Answer

- In 2014, power and utilities related funding for schools were combined with other grants into a single operational grant, which allowed schools flexibility to more effectively allocate their resources.
- In 2015, these operational grants were incorporated into global school budgets. The operational funding for the 2015 calendar year for schools consisted of the 2014 grant plus 1 per cent.
- Schools are now managing their budget in its entirety, allocating funds across expense categories as they see fit.
- Schools are encouraged to effectively and efficiently manage their expenditure within their budget allocation and where possible adopt relevant measures across the school. This includes measures to reduce utilities consumption and thereby resultant costs.
- Any savings made by schools are being retained in the schools and available for alternative uses.
- Retail electricity market opportunities for government schools are continuing to be monitored and potential energy saving measures (solar panels) are being investigated.