

Mr Greg Piper MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
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DGL19/528

Dear Mr Piper

Thank you for your letter of 5 August 2019, requesting an update and further details on the progress of recommendations from the Auditor-General's performance audit report on ICT in schools for teaching and learning. The details you have requested are provided below.

1. Progress report on the implementation of the uplifting of T4L

Forward projections for T4L have been reviewed and aligned with expected student enrolment increases.

2. Progress report on Connecting Country Schools and Connecting Metro Schools

I am pleased to advise that the Connecting Country Schools project is progressing to plan, with 894 schools now operating on the enhanced network and 17 installations in progress. Final remediation and quality assurance activities are scheduled for completion by the end of 2019.

The proposed Connecting Metro Schools project is being assessed as a possible future investment opportunity. It should be noted that the Department of Education is continually working to improve internet bandwidth at all schools across the State.

3. ICT Maturity Progress

An ICT PLUS+ self-assessment tool has been developed and released to schools to allow them to align their use of technology within the Department's Schools Excellence Framework.

Release 1 of the ICT PLUS+ project provided a Dashboard containing performance indicators that facilitate calculation of the relative ICT rating of each school and their ICT investment.

Further incremental releases of the ICT PLUS+ tool will deliver more information and tools to schools to enhance their effective use of technology.

4. Governance and Research

As described in the July 2018 update, a cross-divisional Technology Steering Group commenced operation as the Department's peak IT governance body. The Group has continued to meet on a regular basis, and greater participation in the strategic oversight process by business and school management areas has provided a more informed and effective strategic alignment between the Information Technology Directorate and its clients in the Department.

The Department is currently developing a Schools Digital Strategy for Executive approval, which will inform a seven year roadmap of how to best manage digital innovation for the classrooms of the future and provide direct linkages between technology strategy and student outcomes. The strategy will be based on information generated from multiple stakeholders across the corporate, teaching, school community domains, and literature from around the world.

The Primary Teacher Professional Learning and Student Outcomes research paper informed the review of professional learning inside the Department. This resulted in a new quality assurance framework against which all professional learning is evaluated to ensure its fitness for purpose. A review of the outcomes is planned for 2020.

The ICT Usage in Schools and Student Outcomes research piece has been augmented by a second study investigating relationships between specific applications and student outcomes and a closer review of how these can be used in teacher practice in schools. This work is ongoing.

5. Laptops for Teachers

While the business case for this program has been completed, the implementation timeline for this initiative is under consideration.

If you require any further information, please contact Mr Stephen Loquet, the Department's Chief Information Officer, by telephone on 9302 7422.

Yours sincerely



Mark Scott AO
SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

✓ September 2019