

STATE FINANCES — INTERNAL REALLOCATION TO FUND ELECTION COMMITMENTS

2202. Mr S.K. L'Estrange to the minister representing the Minister for Education and Training:

Given that the total appropriation under the Internal Reallocation to Fund Election Commitments across 2017–2018 to 2020–2021 amounts to \$69 million, can the Minister please outline what projects had money withdrawn to reallocate this \$69 million to fund election commitments?

Mr P. Papalia replied:

The State Government needed to achieve two things with this budget. The first was to undertake significant budget repair as a consequence of the parlous state in which the previous government left the State's finances. This Government had to identify savings to address that. There was a significant write-down in government revenue after the Pre-election Financial Projections Statement, and this Government had to address that as well. In addition, this Government did what it said it would do in the election campaign, which was to reprioritise some of the spending and pay for some of the election commitments out of Royalties for Regions, and spread some of the infrastructure commitments over five years.

The following funding adjustments contributed to the internal relocation:

- applying an equity adjustment to the student-centred funding model;
- discontinuing the administration grant to Independent Public Schools;
- reducing the number of Senior Executive Service positions;
- central office fleet management efficiencies;
- reduced non-salary funding for central office and other operational areas;
- phasing-out working with children reimbursements for staff (subject to the necessary changes through the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety); and
- transition to cost recovery of the School of Isolated and Distance Education's services for non-government schools.