



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary inquiry examines responses to school infrastructure audit

A new public inquiry by the Victorian Parliament's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee will investigate the responses made to an Auditor-General's report on managing school infrastructure.

The audit report, released in May 2017, examined the long-term planning and accountability mechanisms involved with Victorian school infrastructure programs.

"The programs to renew and maintain our schools are a vital part of building a strong education system in our state, so this new inquiry will consider how those programs are implemented," Committee Chair Lizzie Blandthorn said.

"The Committee will examine how the Department of Education and Training has responded to the findings and recommendations made by the Auditor-General and what further actions are still required."

The audit report found that the department's recent focus on improving long-term planning through a 10-year asset strategy was encouraging. At the same time, the Auditor-General concluded that work remains for the department in relation to management arrangements for school assets.

The Committee will be exploring a range of issues raised by the Auditor-General through this inquiry, including the planning that is undertaken to cope with a surge in student numbers, the performance measures associated with an expanded building program, and how maintenance is impacted by an expansion in school facilities across the state.

Public submissions to the inquiry are welcome until 20 December 2019. Public hearings will begin in March 2020.

"Our Committee has an important role ensuring that government agencies are held accountable to the Parliament," Ms Blandthorn said.

"Reviewing what actions government agencies take in response to audit reports is a vital part of that accountability process."

For further details on the inquiry, go to the Committee's [website](#).

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