

Request for Costing an Election Commitment

Name of proposal:	Better Infrastructure – Toxic material urgent assessment
Person requesting costing:	Alistair Coe MLA
Date of request:	30 September 2020
Summary of proposal:	Urgent assessment of ACT Government school infrastructure to identify toxic material including lead, mould and asbestos.
Issue the proposal will address:	Ensure that schools are safe and free from toxic material.

What are the key assumptions that have been made in the proposal?

Note: The costing will be developed on the basis of information and assumptions provided in the costing request. The professional judgment of the Under Treasurer will determine whether these assumptions are adopted in the costing of the proposal.

This funding is capped at \$690,000. There are 69 public schools in the ACT which were built before 1985 that may contain toxic material. The funding assumes a maximum of \$10,000 will be spent per school as part of the urgent assessment.

Funding will be available from 2020-21 with a competitive tender process commencing as soon as possible. The urgent assessments process will enable reporting after assessing each school. All assessments will need to be completed before 1 July 2021.

Urgent removal works will be funded through the \$15 million school boost separately submitted for costing.

Administrative and procurement expenses associated with this initiative will be absorbed by the Education Directorate and schools.

What are the estimated revenue and operating costs each year (if available) and what are the capital requirements for this proposal and estimated costs each year (if available)?

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue^(a)					
Expenses^(a)	-690.0				-690.0
Capital					
Depreciation					

(a) A negative number indicates a decrease in revenue or an increase in expenses. The expenses row does not include depreciation costs.

Has any specific information or data been utilised in generating the proposal?
It was recently reported in The Canberra Times that 69 schools have toxic materials on site. Benchmark contract for this audit is a recent Education Directorate lighting audit in 2019 .
Where relevant, is funding for the proposal to be demand driven or a capped amount?
Capped amount.
Will third parties, for instance the Commonwealth or other State/Territories, have a role in funding or delivering the proposal? Does the proposal provide additional funding to, or redirect, any existing Commonwealth/State or Territory funding arrangements?
N/A
Will funding/the cost require indexation?
No.
Who will administer the proposal?
The proposal will be administered by the Education Directorate.
How will the proposal be administered?
The Education Directorate will immediately commence a competitive tender process for an urgent assessment of toxic material in schools. The findings will inform spending under the Better Infrastructure – \$15 million school maintenance boost.
Is the proposal part of a broader package?
This proposal forms part of the Canberra Liberals Policy on Education.
Has an allowance been made for expenses necessary to support the implementation of this proposal?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – If no, will the government agency be expected to absorb expenses associated with this proposal? – If yes, please specify the key assumptions.
The Education Directorate will absorb the administrative and procurement costs associated with this proposal.
Will the proposal generate savings or offsets?

N/A
Has the proposal been previously costed by an external (third) party? Will a copy of this material, including any assumptions, be made available to Treasury?
N/A
What are the community impacts associated with the proposal? Who and how many people will be affected?
Public schools built before 1985 across the ACT are expected to benefit from the audit which will urgently assess whether there are toxic materials on site. Removal of toxic material from older schools will be given the highest priority with works fast tracked over the school holiday period. This will enable children to return to their classrooms and learn in a safe environment. Teachers' work safety will be improved.
Are there any transitional considerations associated with implementation of the proposal? If so, how will they be managed?
Nil.
What is the intended implementation date of the proposal?
The competitive tender process for the audit will commence immediately.
When is the proposal expected to be fully operational? Please provide details such as the start and end dates, the level of commitment during each period etc.
The urgent assessments are expected to commence immediately, assessors will be required to report on an ongoing basis to allow for urgent works to be organized. The urgent assessments must be finished by 1 July 2021.
Will the proposal cease, and if so, when?
The latest the audit is expected to be completed is 2022.
Is there any additional information relevant to this proposal?
N/A