

Dear Secondary Principal,

As you may be aware the Commonwealth Government has released their list of the first 60% of schools to receive funding from the National School Pride component of the Building the Education Revolution. All nominations submitted by the department were approved by the Commonwealth government.

If your school was not in the first round, please do not worry. Any school not nominated in the first round will be nominated in the second. We are confident that the Commonwealth Government will approve funding for the remaining 40% of schools in the second round of funding due to be announced in May.

When the department was working out the National School Pride program of works for your school we used the Condition Based Assessments undertaken last year as our starting point.

While we strongly recommend that you choose projects for your school from your Condition Based Assessment, we understand that some of you have other priorities that you would like considered from your March nominations.

When your local Asset Management Unit contacts you to discuss the National School Pride program of works at your school you should mention any of your nominations from March that you would like considered instead of condition based assessment work.

Also, if you have a local quote for a project under National School Pride, please provide this to your local Asset Management Unit by 8 May 2009.

Together with you, they will assess your local quote and if it is the best value for money will work with your local tradesperson to deliver the project.

It is vital that all these projects are well managed so we meet our obligations for workers compensation, insurance, health and safety, child protection, training, probity and that Commonwealth requirements for reporting and quality assurance are met.

Given these obligations, and the consequences of failing to meet them, the department had planned to project manage the Building the Education Revolution program using a team of internal and external specialists.

However, some secondary schools have said they want to project manage their own works. We are giving secondary schools the opportunity to do this, provided the school community understands and accepts the legal, policy and financial risks it would be taking on.

You will need the formal approval of your P & C or School Council before committing to project management. You need to fully understand that if you do this, you, as the principal, will be personally responsible for insurance, workers compensation, compliance with industrial relations, health and safety, reporting, quality assurance, probity and tendering.

Your school will also bear financial responsibility for the project and if there are any funding shortfalls or if the project is not completed on time then the school will be required to pay any outstanding costs - which if the project is not completed on time will amount to the entire cost.

As the school principal you will be required to enter into an agreement with the department acknowledging your understanding and agreement and acceptance of all of the relevant Building the Education Revolution project responsibilities. More details will soon be available on the Department's intranet.

If you do choose to project manage your projects, you need to email BER@det.nsw.edu.au <<mailto:BER@det.nsw.edu.au>> by 8 May 2009 with "local project management" as the subject line and stating your school name, project details and contact information in the body of the email. An information pack will be emailed to you.

If your local supplier or trades people have not provided you with a quote, but would still like to be considered for work at your school, you can ask them to register their contact details on the DET site www.det.nsw.edu.au <<http://www.det.nsw.edu.au>> .

Their details will be forwarded to your local asset management unit and the contractors who will be managing Building the Education Revolution projects to ensure they are considered for any projects happening at your school.

If you have any queries about this process you should contact your local asset management unit.

Regards
Alastair Hunter
Deputy Director-General, Finance and Infrastructure