



**Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee
on
Public Accounts**

MEDIA RELEASE

17 May 2012

**RELEASE OF PARLIAMENTARY REPORT INTO
HAZELWOOD SCHOOL RELOCATION PROJECT**

A Parliamentary Committee reviewing the relocation of Hazelwood School, now known as the Southern Support School has recommended Government reconsider the Department of Education and Skills project management processes and stakeholder engagement levels to ensure future projects come within specified Public Works Approved Budgets.

Tabling the report in Parliament today, Committee Chair, Hon Jim Wilkinson, MLC, said the Committee examined issues around the relocation and development of the Southern Support School as part of the Public Accounts Committee's responsibilities in following up Public Works Approved projects.

'The review of the project raised several concerns around budget management, project scope and planning and stakeholder engagement throughout the course of the project. The Department of Education provided evidence that the project cost was \$6.5m, nearly 80% more than the initial budget approved by the Public Works Committee in 2008.' Mr Wilkinson said.

The major findings of the Committee were concerned with the extent that the approved budget was overspent. A range of issues around the project which lead to the significant budget overruns stemmed from poor project scope planning given the highly specialized needs of this school which, had the issues been properly considered prior to commencement, could have reduced the extra time taken and budget blowouts. The Committee found that risk and contract management processes could also have been better managed.

The inquiry acknowledged that given a long and difficult project, the Department had eventually delivered a state-of-the-art center which is highly functional and provides outstanding learning environments for special needs children from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

ends

FURTHER INFORMATION: Jim Wilkinson MLC on 0419 349 251