

Yvette Berry MLA

Deputy Chief Minister

Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Minister for Homes and New Suburbs

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Member for Ginninderra

Mr Tom Duncan

Clerk

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Tom.Duncan@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Duncan

Thank you for your letter about petition number E-PET-013-25 and PET-025-25.

The ACT Government is committed to continuing to ensure that ACT public schools meet the learning and wellbeing needs of students and staff.

The Government has committed to invest \$30 million on heating and cooling upgrades in ACT schools over the next four years. This will commence in 2025-26, with the Government funding \$15 million over two years through the ACT budget, for the replacement of heating and cooling assets within ACT Public Schools through a new dedicated Public Schools Heating and Cooling Fund initiative. This investment will include some electrification of gas assets in public schools, which will contribute to meeting government greenhouse gas emissions targets and the goal of net zero emissions.

Gradual expansion of natural and mechanical cooling investments will improve thermal comfort and reduce the impact of warm temperatures in ACT public schools, including at Canberra High School.

Investment will be prioritised according to greatest need, informed by asset condition assessment and consideration of heating and cooling priorities across all ACT public schools. Identification of heating and cooling needs is currently underway.

The Education Directorate has been working with Canberra High School during 2025, with plans being developed to progress the gradual expansion of mechanical cooling at the school. Additional mechanical ventilation will increase cooling in priority areas of the school, to be delivered during semester 2, 2025.



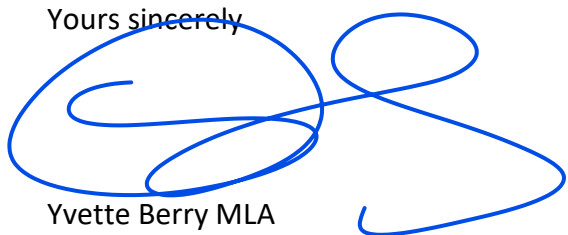
The Directorate will also work with the school to support awareness of the positive impacts natural ventilation can make to reducing the impact of high temperatures, using facilities already in place at the school, including air flow and circulation through open windows and ceiling fans.

This investment will have a positive impact in providing resilience against extreme heat at public schools. The Directorate will continue to work with Canberra High School and all schools regarding school infrastructure needs.

I thank the Canberra High School students and Ms Laura Nuttall MLA for raising this matter.

Your correspondence on this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'Y' followed by a horizontal stroke and a loop.

Yvette Berry MLA
Minister for Education and Early Childhood
8 July 2025