

Premier & Trade, Peter Beattie

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## **\$120M To Replace All State School Asbestos Roofs**

The Queensland Government will launch a \$120 million program to remove all state school roofs containing asbestos, Premier Peter Beattie announced today.

Mr Beattie told Queensland Parliament the 10-year program will be funded in the 2005-06 Budget to be unveiled by Deputy Premier and Treasurer Terry Mackenroth on 7 June.

"The \$120 million, 10-year Asbestos Roof Replacement Program will replace all state school roofs that contain asbestos materials," Mr Beattie said.

"That is: more than 1100 roofs in more than 370 schools."

All unsafe asbestos was removed from schools in the 1990s following a state-wide audit, and a government program for inspecting asbestos in schools and gradually removing the substance means all schools are safe.

Mr Beattie said: "Most school roofs containing asbestos date back to before the 1980s, and will be reaching the end of their intended lifespan over the next 10 years or more.

"I've had many discussions about this with the Treasurer, the Education Minister and the Public Works Minister, and we agree on the importance of planning to keep our children and teachers safe.

"The decision to make this funding available in the 2005-06 budget will accelerate roof replacement in state schools.

"It means peace of mind for parents, students, teachers and others in our school communities.

"Our new program will more than double the current pace of school roof asbestos removal.

"It will start almost immediately, with \$7.2 million allocated for work on 70 roofs in 61 schools in 2005-06," Mr Beattie said.

Asbestos removal is a small and highly-specialised industry, and the 70 roofs to be done next year are likely to soak up all the industry capacity.

"In later years, we expect the industry to expand with the injection of new funds," Mr Beattie said.

"This will allow us to further accelerate removal in subsequent years." Given the size of the industry, it will take a decade to work through all 1100-plus roofs.

"Roofs will be prioritised according to age and condition.

"School principals know they must ensure that staff and students are not in classrooms or in the vicinity when any maintenance or other works are carried out - regardless of whether asbestos is present.

"This is the case under the existing program, and it will continue, so no students or staff will be around while work is carried out," Mr Beattie said.

The schools to be worked on in 2005-06 are:

- Aldridge State High School
- Atherton State High School
- Atherton State High School
- Ayr State High School
- Babinda State School
- Bargara State School
- Biggera Waters State School
- Bundaberg South State School
- Cannonvale State School
- Cavendish Road State High School
- Centenary Heights State High School
- Coorparoo Secondary College
- Durack State School
- Dutton Park State School
- Earnshaw State College
- Geebung State School
- Goodna State School
- Gympie State High School
- Heatley State School
- Holland Park State High School
- Kalkie State School
- Keebra Park State High School
- Kuraby State School
- Labrador State School
- Landsborough State School
- Mackay North State High School
- Malanda State High School
- Mareeba State High School
- Mareeba State High School
- Maryborough Central State School
- Miami State High School
- Moggill State School
- Moorooka State School
- Mossman State High School
- Mount Sylvia State School
- **Murgon State High School**
- Musgrave Hill State School
- North Rockhampton State High School

- Proserpine State High School
- Proserpine State School
- Raceview State School
- Rochedale State School
- Rocklea State School
- Rosewood State School
- Salisbury State School
- Sarina State High School
- Seven Hills State School
- Sherwood State School
- Southport State High School
- Sunnybank State High School
- **Taabinga State School**
- The Gap State School
- Thornlands State School
- Toogoolawah
- Torquay State School
- Two Mile State School
- Wilston State School
- Woodridge North State School
- Woodridge State School
- Wynnum North State High School
- Zillmere State School