



Kimberley Echo  
Thursday 26/6/2014  
Page: 3  
Section: General News  
Region: Kununurra WA Circulation: 1,991  
Type: Regional  
Size: 231.00 sq.cms.  
Frequency: ---T---

# School upgrade fund cut

■ Rourke Walsh

Wyndham District High School has been stripped of \$2 million in funding originally allocated to upgrade its science, home economics, and design and technology facilities.

The school was one of more than two dozen announced by the State Government in late 2012 to be sharing in more than \$40 million of specialist facilities funding.

However, it was confirmed during Budget Estimates last week that WDHS was yet to receive its share and it was now one of six schools removed from the program.

Kimberley MP Josie Farrer last week blasted the decision, which also affected schools in Boddington, Yanchep, York,

Toodyay and Gingin, as "another broken promise from the Liberal Government".

"The Wyndham Community has every right to feel outraged by this," she said.

"The Kimberley is continuously forgotten, it is appalling that funding is ripped away from the schools that need it the most."

The funding originally allocated was intended for a refurbishment of the science laboratory, home economics, and design and technology extraction systems.

Savings from the cuts total more than \$18 million however, *The Kimberley Echo* understands about \$300,000 of preliminary planning work took place at the six schools before they were

removed from the funding scheme.

Education Minister Peter Collier said the 2013-14 Budget focused on savings and reform initiatives, which result in a review of major infrastructure projects.

"As a result of this there was a reprioritisation of projects, including the planned works at Wyndham District High School," he said.

"Capital works originally planned at six schools, including Wyndham, will now be considered as part of future budget processes.

"Wyndham District High School will however, be getting a new transportable design and technology classroom by the end of 2014."

He said in addition, \$600,000

had been allocated to WDHS for a toilet upgrade — a project currently in planning stages.

Mr Collier said changes to the District High School upgrade program needed to be seen in the context of a \$1.16 billion education capital works program by the State Government over the next four years.

Nationals Mining and Pastoral MLC Dave Grills said he was disappointed by the decision, particularly given planning work had begun at some schools.

He said the withdrawal of funding seemed incredibly city-centric.

"It is frustrating to see money already invested in these programs going to waste," he said.