Solar and Energy Efficiency Lighting Retrofit Program – Important School Information

"The Solar and Energy Efficiency Program" is undertaking a lighting retrofit program in all schools to provide energy efficient lighting.

Some important notes for schools on the fitting of adaptors/tubes for energy efficient lighting are as follows:

- Existing 36 watt lamps (T8) are being replaced with Energy Efficient 28 watt lamps (T5) in general classrooms and high use areas.
- These lamps require an "adaptor" to be installed in the current light fittings as they are physically shorter than inefficient 36 watt lamps.
- The adaptor that is installed is essentially a self contained light fitting with a reflector, fluorescent tube and electronics including a built-in ballast.
- In order to fit the new adaptor and lamp, the existing starter and capacitor are removed as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Existing ballasts in light fittings are not required to be removed to allow the fitting of the adaptor and can remain in the circuit.
- While ballasts can be removed without effecting the operation of the adaptors, removal often requires internal re-wiring of the light fitting. For this reason, ballasts are not being removed universally across the program.
- All of the adaptors installed under the program have a 30 day installation warranty and a 12 month manufacturer's warranty on the product itself.
- Any ballasts failing during the 30 day installation warranty will be removed by the installer of the adaptors.
- After the 30 day installation warranty period, schools will be responsible for removing any failed ballasts via a qualified electrician.
- The new 28 watt lamps normally have a long useful life. However batches can fail, and for this reason spare lamps are being provided to schools to assist with any premature failure of the new energy efficient 28 watt lamps.
- Safe work practice methods need to be adopted and implemented at all times in relation to any electrical maintenance work.

Existing ballasts in the original circuit typically have a life span of approximately 10 years before failure. However the following elements in conjunction with the ballasts are likely in all schools regardless of any changeover to energy efficient lighting:

- The existing ballasts **will** fail at some time and **will** require removal.
- Schools should be aware that existing ballasts when they fail occasionally produce smoke and may also leak a tar like substance.
- Schools should immediately turn these lights off, clear the room because of the possibility of an odour, as is associated with the failure of any electrical device; and call a qualified electrician. A sign should then be put over the switch to indicate that lights should not be turned on due to a fault, and removed after the fault has been rectified.
- The Department of Education and Training requires that all ballasts that fail are to be removed.
- When required, disconnection and removal of the existing ballast **must be** carried out by a qualified electrician.
- Should a ballast fail in an unmodified inefficient fitting, an energy efficient adaptor and new 28 watt lamp is to be fitted. In order to fit the new adaptor and lamp, the existing starter and capacitor are required to be removed, **by the electrician**, as per instructions above.
- In most schools, QBuild will be called to complete this work and funded as part of normal school maintenance.
- A fitting with the ballast removed must use a 28 watt energy efficient lamp in the adaptor provided. **At no time** is the adaptor to be removed and an old 36 watt lamp and starter replaced into any modified fittings, and **at no time** are light tubes to be replaced by anyone **without turning off the light at the controlling switch**.

- Energy Efficient 28 watt lamps (T5) are available from Hayman Electrical and Richard Flanagan & Company using the DET Preferred Supplier Arrangement at the pre-arranged pricing.