Statement from Minister Firth

“The digital schools revolution is a welcome initiative. We took part in round one and we’ll keep working with the Commonwealth on its continued roll-out in NSW.

“NSW has been working closely with Federal counterparts to demonstrate the costs involved in bringing the education revolution to NSW.

“It had been hoped by all parties that these funding issues would be resolved before Round 2 started. Unfortunately this hasn’t occurred and that’s why we sought an extension on the deadline for applications.

“NSW’s financial position has been made very clear. We are preparing for a mini-budget to be handed down on November 11. The Premier has said he wants maximum flexibility in this process and NSW can’t commit to any infrastructure ahead of the mini budget.”

“I understand that the Department of Education and Training advised principals not to apply until all funding detail has been finalised.

“It would be unfair to schools and students to seek new computers only to find that there was insufficient funding for their operating costs from the Federal Government.

“NSW has not opted out of Round 2 funding, we remain committed to bringing the digital revolution to our schools. We simply want some more clarity on funding issues.

“The NSW Secondary Principals Council supports the NSW Government’s position.”