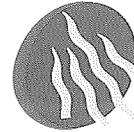




5 JUN 2008 The Honourable Rod Welford MP

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Queensland
Government

J6/6/08

Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts



Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 2 May 2008 in relation to e-petition number 1026-08 regarding the potential closure of Hemmant State School.

I acknowledge efforts of the Hemmant community in organising the petition. I also recognise that Hemmant State School is one of the oldest schools in Queensland providing a long history of service to the local community. The Queensland Government's *State Schools of Tomorrow* initiative proposes renewing clusters of older schools giving them more spacious and flexible learning environments, which includes the latest technology.

A Community Reference Group (CRG), consisting of a principal and a parents and citizens association representative from each state school in the Brisbane Bayside area, representatives of the Queensland Teachers' Union and the wider community, was established as the peak consultation body for the Bayside community. The Bayside CRG developed a long term vision of a sustainable future for state education in the local area through a six month consultation process. The community was asked to consider and provide feedback on what schools should look like, what schools were needed for the future, where they should be located and what facilities they should have.

In considering the closure of Hemmant State School and developing their renewal options for submission to government, the CRG considered factors such as the school being older and built in an era when education was very different from the modern day and the now poor location, given surrounding development changes which produce noise, dust and traffic issues.

In addition, there are other state schools in close proximity to Hemmant, with 64 percent of state school students within the local area choosing an alternative school to Hemmant State School. There was also a slight decline in student enrolment numbers from 87 in 2007 to 83 in 2008 and advice from an external demographer, using council and state planning information, has confirmed there will be no substantial enrolment growth in the area.

The *State Schools of Tomorrow* initiative provides an unprecedented opportunity to transform state education in the Bayside area to support modern teaching methods and enhanced student learning.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you can contact Mr Jeff Krause, Project Director, Tomorrow's Schools by email at jeffrey.krause@deta.qld.gov.au or on telephone (07) 3235 9879.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

Ref: 08/62303

Your Ref: Petitions

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