



Minister for Education, Training and Employment  
Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP

20 NOV 2014

Level 22 Education House  
30 Mary Street Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7530  
Email [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

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

Dear Mr Laurie

*Neil,*

I refer to Petition 2336-14 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2014 regarding the construction of a secure fence around the perimeter of the Torquay State School. I note that a similar petition 2240-14 was tabled on 2 April 2014, which I wrote to you about on 17 June 2014.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment is committed to ensuring the safety of students and minimising the incidence of property damage to schools. In my previous response, I advised that the existing perimeter fence at Torquay State School is a standard school chain wire fence, approximately 1 metre high.

Ms Angelique Kropp, Principal, Torquay State School, advises that she has met with representatives from the school's Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C) on several occasions throughout the year to discuss and gather information on alternative fencing and associated costs. The school's preference is to have the existing fencing upgraded to a Type 1 School Security Fence. The approximate cost of the desired fence is \$280,000 which is currently beyond the means of the school and the fund raising capacity of the P&C.

School Security Fencing is designed to reduce after-hour property damage to schools by enhancing the security of the school and making unauthorised access more difficult. However it is not designed or intended for use as a traffic barrier.

School Security Fencing projects are identified through a risk assessment process. Each school throughout Queensland is given a risk rating which is based on the number and cost of property damage incidents affecting the school. The type of incidents taken into account include vandalism, break and enter, theft, arson and graffiti offences.

There are four risk rating levels used in the prioritisation of expenditure on school security fences, these being low, medium, high and extreme. Risk ratings are reviewed annually and security fencing projects are generally targeted at schools with a high or extreme risk rating. Torquay State School's current risk rating is medium.

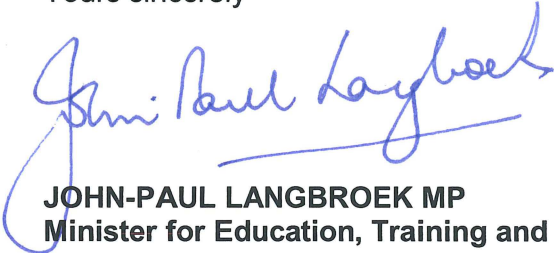
Ms Kropp has advised that property damage has cost the school \$8,254 for the period between February 2011 and October 2014. While School Security Fencing is an effective mechanism in reducing property damage and unauthorised entry, the incidents currently being experienced by the Torquay State School do not justify the provision of this type of fencing.



Ms Kropp also advises that there have been a number of traffic incidents involving parked vehicles on Torquay and Totness Roads being hit, however to date no vehicles have breached the school's perimeter fencing. Ms Kropp will reconvene with the Safe School Travel Committee to provide her advice and options to improve road safety around the school.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John-Paul Langbroek", with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

**JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP**  
**Minister for Education, Training and Employment**

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