



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

16 March 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 23 February 2023 regarding Petition No. 3798-22, Stop inappropriate Perrin Park development proposal, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Department of Education (DoE) is planning to deliver a new state primary school in Brisbane's Inner West to provide enrolment relief to Indooroopilly State School, Ironside State School and Toowong State School. The new school was targeted to open in 2024.

Since 2021, DoE has explored a variety of siting options for the new state primary school, including the former Toowong Bowls Club site and neighbouring Perrin Park.

On 16 December 2021, the former Toowong Bowls Club site was announced as the preferred option following a joint media statement by the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and me, which was followed by a period of community consultation.

DoE undertook three rounds of community consultation, over a period of 16 months:

- The first round of consultation was held in January and February 2021, providing the community with the opportunity to provide feedback on the option of the Indooroopilly State High School site or to suggest alternative sites for consideration.
- The second round of consultation was conducted over a month-long period in June 2021, where feedback was sought on locating the new primary school on either the Indooroopilly State High School grounds or the former Toowong Bowls Club and Perrin Park site.
- The third round of consultation was held in April and May 2022, over a three-week period, where feedback was sought on the concept master plan for the Toowong Bowls Club site.

Following the unprecedented flooding in early 2022 and subsequent community consultation, DoE has deemed that the Toowong Bowls Club is not a suitable location for the future primary school in Brisbane's inner west.

Enrolments have stabilised across the local school network since 2020 and the new school is no longer required as early as previously planned.

The original pre-COVID business case from 2019 will now be reviewed to determine when and where a new primary school should be built. While this work is underway, school communities at Indooroopilly, Ironside and Toowong state schools will benefit from new and upgraded facilities including additional student capacity where needed.

With respect to the approvals required for a new state primary school, DoE will usually undertake a Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) over the land. The MID process provides an alternative to lodging a development application with local government and is managed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, with input from other government agencies and the local government authority.

The Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning is responsible for deciding the request for a MID after considering the assessment and submissions received during community consultation. The assessment of the MID focuses on the proposed land use and its associated impacts, including aspects such as traffic, car parking, stormwater, noise, ecology, amenity and built form.

Further to community consultation already undertaken, DoE will be required to undertake further consultation with the community through the MID process, including:

- preliminary engagement with the council and local community prior to lodgement; and
- public consultation over 20 business days, with the requirements of placing signs on land, a notice in the newspaper and letters to surrounding landowners and key stakeholders.

I would like to thank you, the principal petitioner, and every person who signed the petition for their interest in the Queensland state education system.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Grace', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape. A horizontal line extends from the bottom of the oval to the right.

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

Ref: 23/141996