



Minister for Education
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Minister for Racing

9 NOV 2023

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letter dated 12 October 2023 regarding Petition No. 3903-23, Save East Brisbane State School.

East Brisbane State School is unable to remain at its current site beyond 2025 due to the major revitalisation and redevelopment of Woolloongabba and The Gabba, which will include an active transport corridor to South Bank and the Central Business District as well as social and affordable housing.

Assessments undertaken regarding the long-term requirements of The Gabba and the school community have established that it is not possible for the school to cater for long-term enrolment growth or provide quality, fit-for-purpose learning environments if co-located with The Gabba redevelopment.

The possibility of building the school on other sites was raised during community consultation, and has been investigated by the Department of Education (DoE); however, these sites were either too small, would not be ready in time for 2026, or would require compulsory acquisition of multiple local homes and businesses—something that is only possible as a last resort and when no other suitable site is available.

The 11-hectare Coorparoo Secondary College site was identified as the preferred location to relocate East Brisbane State School as it is around 1.6km away from the current site, has extensive green space, safe drop off zones and capacity for the expected future growth in the school community. This contrasts with the current 1.5-hectare site that is bordered by three main roads, has limited access to green space and limited capacity to expand.

I am pleased to advise that all heritage listed buildings on the East Brisbane State School site will be incorporated into the final design of the development of The Gabba.

The new catchment for East Brisbane State School is yet to be determined and consultation is planned to take place before it is finalised. Local network state schools, including Brisbane Central State School, Buranda State School, Coorparoo State School, Dutton Park State School and Norman Park State School may also experience some catchment changes.

To address concerns about active and safe school travel, DoE is working with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and other relevant stakeholders to consider safe, active and public transport access to the relocated site. This includes the possible connection of a bike pathway across Norman Creek adjacent to the college site. The community will be kept informed as this planning progresses.

DoE is engaging with East Brisbane State School, Coorparoo Secondary College and the Brisbane School of Distance Education to support the schools through detailed planning to enable the relocation of East Brisbane State School and Brisbane School of Distance Education. In Terms 3 and 4, 2023, DoE held a number of design consultation sessions with the schools' leadership, staff and families, and two information sessions to share the master plan for the relocated school with the school community. The master plan was positively received by those involved.

If you require additional information or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me directly or alternatively your staff can contact Ms Katelyn Dougherty, Chief of Staff of my office, on (07) 3719 7110.

I would like to thank you, the principal petitioner, and every person who signed the petition for their advocacy for the East Brisbane State School community.

Yours sincerely



GRACE GRACE MP
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Ref: 23/779106