



The Honourable Rod Welford MP

3 JUL 2007

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



Queensland
Government

Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts



LAI~~D~~ UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 7 June 2007 concerning the petition numbered 845-07 lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 6 June 2007.

On 25 September 2006, I approved the transfer of Coorook Secondary College from its alignment with Pomona State School to Noosa District State High School.

This was to enable access for the secondary students on the Pomona campus to the opportunities and facilities of the Coorook campus of the high school. Because there is capacity on the Coorook site, the principal flagged the possibility of moving the Year 10 students from Pomona to Coorook permanently as from Semester 2, 2007.

As Year 10 is now considered to be the foundation year for senior studies, the Year 10 students on the Coorook campus will begin senior studies next semester, and are able to select from 26 Authority Subjects and 16 Non-Authority or Vocational Education Programs. The Coorook campus has facilities commensurate with this broad range of senior program choices. None of these opportunities is available on the Pomona site.

The decision to move the Year 10 students from the Pomona campus was made to enable these students to access the same range of opportunities and facilities.

With the total enrolment on the Pomona campus for Years 8–10 of around 170 students and only about 50 of these in Year 10, it is highly unlikely that Year 11 and 12 programs will ever be offered on the Pomona site.

As a result of the parent meeting on 15 May 2007, Mrs Jenny Haddrell, Regional Executive Director, Sunshine Coast Region, made a commitment to review the decision to move the Year 10 students from the Pomona campus.

A small representative working group of parents and community members met with Mrs Haddrell on 30 May 2007 and supported the relocation of the current Year 10 students from the Pomona campus to the Coorook campus from Semester 2, 2007. The group supported the decision, that from January 2008, all Year 10 students from the Pomona campus will begin their Year 10 year on the Coorook campus.

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Further strategies will be formulated in consultation with the working group and local communities regarding the long term future of the Pomona campus.

The petitioners can be assured that Education Queensland will do all in its power to provide access to the best possible education for all students in their local area.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you can contact Mrs Haddrell on telephone (07) 3881 9619.

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

Yours ~~sincerely~~

~~Rod Welford MP~~

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