



Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

19 MAR 2018

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2843-17 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 February 2018 regarding infrastructure at the Cairns School of Distance Education (SDE).

I note the strong advocacy of the community for upgrading the current infrastructure at Cairns SDE, and SDEs across Queensland. I would like to assure the petitioners that the Palaszczuk Government is committed to working with all schools to provide students with access to high quality educational facilities that align with educational outcomes.

I am advised that in November 2017, in response to the immediate demand resulting from the expansion of curriculum programs at the school, the department, in consultation with Mr Andrew Oliver, Principal, Cairns School of Distance Education, funded a two-space building to be transported to the school. This building was fitted out to provide extra teacher preparation areas. The building was in place for the start of the 2018 school year.

To plan for the long-term requirements of SDEs, the department's Infrastructure Services Branch engaged an independent consultant to provide a report providing recommendations for strategic infrastructure needs and investments into the future.

The department met with SDE principals on 16 February 2018 where the draft report was tabled. The principals will provide feedback to this draft report prior to the next meeting, which is scheduled for 3 May 2018. Once the report has been finalised, it will be distributed for further consultation to the SDE Parents and Citizens' Associations and school communities.

If you require further information or assistance, please contact Mr Kevin Mara, Assistant Director-General, Infrastructure Services Branch, by email at kevin.mara@det.qld.gov.au or on (07) 3034 4520.

I would like to thank your petitioners for raising this important matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
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Ref: 18/85856