



## Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

17 DEC 2018

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petitions 3031-18 and 3047-18 tabled on 15 November 2018 in the Legislative Assembly requesting the relocation of the new three-storey building to be constructed at the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology (QASMT).

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to building fit-for-purpose learning environments that support educational outcomes.

During the planning stages two ecological assessments were undertaken by a qualified and experienced ecologist to consider the impact on flora and fauna from vegetation removal required by the project. The first was undertaken in early 2018 with the second assessment undertaken as part of the submission for Infrastructure Designation in August 2018.

Vegetation is not proposed for removal north of the existing buildings, in the northern car park footprint or within areas of the site that are mapped Matters of State Environmental Significance (MSES) with the exception of clearing four dead trees in the informal Miskin Street car park, due to safety reasons. Vegetation removal is limited to those areas of the site where new buildings are proposed.

When assessed against the criteria for the assessment of impact significance prescribed by the relevant guidelines for Matters of National Environmental Significance and MSES, the project does not result in a significant impact on any fauna species listed as threatened, near threatened or migratory under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) and/or the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The ecologist recommended several mitigation measures including: a tree protection zone; fauna spotter catcher; vegetation offsets; and weed control. All recommendations will be put in place through the project delivery and ongoing management of the campus site by the school.

Following community consultation in March 2018, the Department of Education redesigned the expansion plans, removing two proposed formal car parks (to the southern boundary of Miskin Street car park and the northern campus boundary), amending the design of the Northern Building and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Building, and limiting the removal of trees.

As part of the project, any trees removed will be more than offset through the planting of new plants (including trees, shrubs and grasses), with most new plants being of native species.

The department presented the final master plan, demonstrating amendments in response to community feedback at a community information session held at QASMT on 6 September 2018.

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

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

Yours sincerely



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

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