1 4 MAY 2013

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Dear Mrtaurie Neil,

I refer to Petition 2019-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 16 April 2013 regarding the closure of the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by petitioners in regard to the future of the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus. I wish to advise petitioners that the Alexandra Hills campus of the Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE is not one of the 25 properties that are being progressed for sale, having lease arrangements finalised, or being transferred as part of the Government's response to the Queensland Skills and Training Taskforce (the Taskforce) report released in November 2012.

The Government response does commit to the fundamental reform of the State's vocational education and training sector.

Part of this reform agenda will include the development of a Strategic Asset Plan due to be finalised by Government in December 2013. The Plan will address issues identified by the Taskforce in relation to TAFE Queensland facilities having low utilisation rates, infrastructure not being fit for purpose and facilities requiring modernisation. It will also incorporate the Government's response, when released, to the recommendation contained in the Commission of Audit Executive Summary, which provides that asset ownership be separated from TAFE and transferred to a commercial entity with a view to rationalising the asset base, facilitating third party access and improving asset utilisation.

This redefinition of our State's training infrastructure does not mean that services will be reduced. On the contrary, the Government's aim is to grow the capacity of the training sector to enhance choice and flexibility for students and employers.

A comprehensive and detailed approach is being adopted in relation to the review of the State's training assets to ensure infrastructure is provided which can meet current and future industry and student demand. Any proposed changes to TAFE's current physical footprint will be conducted in a measured, staged approach and will involve consultation.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising their concerns with me and trust this response addresses their concerns regarding the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus.

Yours sincerely

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP

Minister for Education, Training and Employment