



Minister for Education and
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

11 MAY 2016

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2555-16 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 19 April 2016 regarding the need for construction of a new hall at the Bounty Boulevard State School.

It is acknowledged that Bounty Boulevard State School is a large primary school in an area that is continuing to experience enrolment growth. I note that the school currently has a multi-purpose hall that was provided through the Building the Education Revolution program at a time when the school's enrolments were significantly lower, and I understand that securing a larger hall is a priority for the school and the local community.

The sponsoring Member, Mr Chris Whiting MP, is a strong advocate for Bounty Boulevard State School and I thank him for his continued commitment to education in his electorate.

Funding for school halls is allocated through the Education Capital Works Budget. As I have said many times in the Parliament, the Palaszczuk Government has faced serious challenges after the former LNP Minister failed to secure adequate capital works funding and left a \$77 million black hole in the budget.

Public Private Partnership models generally aim to reduce upfront costs by spreading capital works costs over a 30 year period. The LNP failed to realise the benefits of this model by committing to higher capital costs in the early years of the PPP agreement.

As a result of this decision, the Palaszczuk Government faced a situation where more than one third of the capital works budget was required to service the PPP debt.

The Department of Education and Training has advised that design and documentation of a school hall suitable for the current size of the school has been completed as part of a recent project to provide additional classroom accommodation.

In light of the budgetary challenges I inherited from the former LNP government, my focus has been on funding to support growth in Queensland schools however, the Bounty Boulevard State School Community can assured that the provision of a suitable hall has been afforded a high priority in the preparation of the Department's Infrastructure Investment Program. Further information regarding the prioritisation and funding status of this project will be available once the State Budget has been finalised.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Dave Baxter, Executive Director, Infrastructure Planning and Delivery, on telephone 3034 4836 or by email at dave.baxter@detp.qld.gov.au.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

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