



Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

13 AUG 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
Queensland Parliament
Cnr of George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2349–14 tabled on 14 July 2015 regarding a multi-purpose performing arts teaching complex and auditorium at Pimlico State High School.

I acknowledge the community's strong support for a hall at Pimlico State High School and recognise that this school continues its strong reputation for producing talented musical, drama and dance students. Like many schools across Queensland, the school's teaching facilities include spaces for Music and Performing Arts.

The Department of Education and Training is committed to working with all schools to ensure their facilities meet future growth and development needs. As your petitioners may be aware, the new facilities for Year 7 students at Pimlico State High School, which have recently been completed, have increased the school's capacity to 1847 student places. Given that the school has enrolment management practices in place, it is unlikely that additional classroom facilities will be required at the school in the foreseeable future, unless there is significant in-catchment growth as well as a compensating reduction in enrolments from outside the school's catchment.

In this regard, it is unlikely that the provision of additional spaces for the Music and Performing Arts programs would be triggered through enrolment growth. However, upgrading of existing facilities could be considered for regional prioritisation and nomination to the statewide Capital Works Program development.

While the Department of Education and Training's 2015–16 capital works program has been finalised, I would like to assure your petitioners that the need for a hall at Pimlico State High School will be assessed when formulating future capital works programs. The school may wish to discuss this matter with its Regional Infrastructure Manager.

In addition, given the facilities sought are considered additional and enhancements to existing learning spaces for the music and performing arts being orientated more towards community use, the school may wish to consider alternative funding sources to those of the Capital Works Program.

One of these sources may be the Department of Education and Training's Smart Schools Subsidy Scheme. This scheme aims to contribute to the cost of school facilities to enhance learning outcomes for students and the wider community. For further information about the scheme, I encourage your petitioners to visit the Department's website online at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/grants/state/core/smart-school.html.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Dave Baxter, Executive Director, Infrastructure Services Branch, Department of Education and Training at dave.baxter@dete.qld.gov.au or 3404 4836.

Your petitioners' advocacy on behalf of Pimlico State High School is appreciated and I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Jones', is written over the typed name and title.

KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

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