



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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14 JUN 2013

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

I refer to Petition 2118-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 May 2013 regarding the sale of the site at 55 Don Cameron Drive, Calliope and transport for students to school.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment continually monitors growth in regional areas to ensure appropriate planning across the State, and recognises the growth in the township of Calliope has increased from 1,550 in 2006, to approximately 3,200 in 2012.

While the number of students residing within the Calliope catchment has grown from 400 primary school aged children in 2006 to 486 students in 2012, the current forecast indicates approximately only 800 students by 2031. This growth, while strong, does not show the required population peak to support a viable high school in the long term. For the school to be considered as long term viable school, a student population peak of 1,300 students over a 20 year period would be necessary.

Given the forecasts for the population, a school is considered not required in the short to medium term and therefore, the Department has determined that the sale of the site is appropriate.

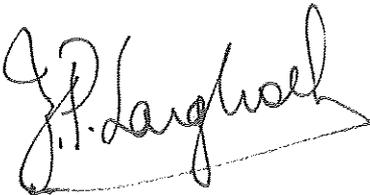
To meet the growth in Calliope, as well as the planned growth on the south western fringe of Gladstone, my Department has determined a future high school in the region would be the best option. The Queensland Government will continue to plan and will consult with Gladstone Regional Council to provide a high school in such a location. This planning will take into account its location to reduce travel time for as many students as possible. The plans for such a school would also reduce the distance and travel time from Calliope, while relieving demands on Gladstone State High School.

To ensure students have the best possible educational services accessible to them, the Department is utilising funding from the *Building our Future Schools program*. Works are already underway at Gladstone State High School to build additional capacity by providing a new two storey block with 15 General Learning Areas; five other learning areas; amenities and staff facilities; in addition to the constructions taking place for the move of Year 7 to secondary. These additional facilities, combined with other works at Toolooa and Tannum Sands, will ensure capacity exists across the region to accommodate students.

In regards to school bus transport, the Queensland Government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders are provided with the best possible public transport services, while also ensuring that the highest safety standards are met. I will continue to monitor this issue, in collaboration with the Honourable Scott Emerson MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads who has portfolio responsibility for this matter.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising this matter with me and trust the response addresses their concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.P. Langbroek', written in a cursive style.

JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment