



Minister for Education
Minister for Tourism and Major Events

23 DEC 2015

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 2495-15 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 1 December 2015 regarding the development of an additional car park at Benowa State High School.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me. The Department of Education and Training is responsible for car parking for staff and visitors on state school sites, and also works in collaboration with all levels of government, including local councils as well as other Queensland Government agencies, to ensure a coordinated approach to road safety at our schools and facilities for car parking at sites adjacent to our schools.

I am advised that Benowa State High School (SHS) has approximately 75 marked car parking spaces on site for staff and visitors. There is also on-street car parking in surrounding streets, with empty spaces available during most school days, particularly on the Ashmore Road street frontage of the school. In addition, I understand that significant portions of the Benowa State School site, opposite Benowa SHS, have been converted to both public and staff parking.

The Department is aware that traffic from Benowa SHS, Benowa State School and St Kevin's Catholic Primary School, along with traffic from the Pindara Private Hospital, can contribute to congestion on Benowa Road at the end of each school day.

As part of addressing this issue, I am advised that Benowa SHS, with the support of the local community, sought to have the exit from Mediterranean Drive on to Ashmore Road reopened for left turns only. Your petitioners may be pleased to note that the Gold Coast City Council has responded by reopening the road and providing traffic calming, and in the four to five weeks that the new connection has been available, traffic congestion has been significantly reduced.

The Department closely monitors the growth of all schools in Queensland, and works with principals and their school communities to manage this growth as well as to ensure that appropriate facilities are provided.

While I acknowledge the petitioners' request for additional parking at Benowa SHS, the Department has confirmed that the site is fully utilised for school buildings, student play and recreational spaces, existing car parking and service roads. The conversion of any more space on the school site to parking would not only reduce available student recreation space, but may also have a negligible impact on traffic congestion in the area.

Although additional car parking on the Benowa SHS grounds is not being pursued, I would like to assure the school community that the Department will continue to work with stakeholders to provide a coordinated approach to road safety in the area.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Jones', written over the words 'Yours sincerely'.

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

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