



Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

14 NOV 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie 

I refer to Petition 3229-19 and e-Petition 3214-19 tabled on 24 October 2019 in the Legislative Assembly requesting the Northern Learning Centre at the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology (QASMT) be moved from its proposed location.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting growing communities and the QASMT expansion project is just one example of this commitment.

Through the expansion project, QASMT will become the first state school in Queensland and the first Brisbane-based school to offer the International Baccalaureate® Middle Years Programme, providing specialised learning opportunities for Queensland students.

I can advise that the Department of Education undertook extensive community consultation for the QASMT expansion project between February and September 2018, along with statutory consultation through the Infrastructure Designation (ID) process.

The department is committed to ensuring the QASMT project complies with the conditions of the ID, as outlined in the Designation Notice issued on 15 November 2018.

In early 2018, the first ecological assessment report (EAR) was undertaken on the QASMT site, and the second EAR was undertaken as part of the submission for ID. The department supports the findings of the qualified ecologist's report.

The department is satisfied the assessment and approval of ID were conducted in a manner which meets all requirements under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NC Act) and the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act).

The Decision Notice issued by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning includes specific conditions in relation to assessments and authorities under the NC Act relating to animal breeding places and protected plants. A low risk Species Management Program has been granted for the project.

While the department is aware there are local residents who have concerns about the location of the QASMT Northern Learning Centre, the development meets all requirements under both the NC Act and the Planning Act.

The development footprint of the building does not extend into Toowong Creek and there are conditions in place to minimise any impacts. The location of this building is not within an area of environmental significance, and is set back from the creek further than existing buildings on either side of the creek.

Construction work on the expansion is well underway with the eastern Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics building due to open in January 2020, followed by the Northern Learning Centre in mid-2020.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

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