

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 9 August 2007 regarding the future of the old Atherton Primary School, Petition No 870-07, received by the House on 8 August 2007.

Although the petition relates to the former Atherton State School, the property is now a Reserve for Local Government purposes under the trusteeship of the local authority. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts has not had any interest in this property since the new Atherton State School was developed some 30 years ago.

At that time, the Atherton Shire Council agreed to make land available for the new Atherton State School on the condition that the former Atherton State School was transferred to council. To implement this agreement, the Reserve for State School purposes was cancelled and the Reserve for Local Government purposes created. This process was managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Water under the Land Act.

While the former Atherton State School is under the trusteeship of the local authority, the land remains state land and is ultimately under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Natural Resources and Water.

Accordingly, I have referred Petition No 870-07 to my colleague, the Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland for direct reply.

Should you require any further information, you can contact Mr Graham Atkins, Executive Director, Facilities Services Branch on telephone (07) 3237 0761.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

Ref: 07/106627

Your Ref: 870-07

cc: The Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland