



Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove

18 JUN 2010



Queensland
Government

Minister for Education and Training

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
GEORGE ST QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 19 May 2010 regarding petitions numbered 1437-10 and 1408-10, sponsored by Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House.

The subject matter of these petitions is a request that Woodford State School, currently offering Years 8, 9 and 10 of secondary schooling, be extended to offer Years 11 and 12 as well.

In new school planning terms, the department regards the Woodford area as an adjunct to the larger urban area of Caboolture. As such, secondary school need is calculated on the basis of the total needs of this wider area.

When planning for new schools, the department endeavours to ensure that any new school will be able to sustain an appropriate level of enrolments over a sustained period of time. In the case of a secondary school, forecasts must demonstrate that it is able to sustain an average of 1,100 students over a 20 year forward period from its year of commencement. In 2009, there were 389 state school secondary students living within the Woodford State School secondary catchment area.

Secondary education is more vocationally oriented than primary school and is expected to offer a wider range of specialist subjects. For this range of subjects, the number of students needs to be significantly larger than primary schools.

If the Department was to follow the practice of opening many small secondary centres, it is possible that such centres may not meet parental and student expectations in relation to the breadth of curriculum offerings in a secondary school.

The Woodford area has not grown in student numbers over recent years. No significant growth is forecast in future years as there is no further committed residential land under the South-East Queensland Regional Plan.

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The next nearest secondary school, Tullawong State High School, is considered to be of an appropriate size for an urban secondary school.

The department therefore considers that there is no requirement for Woodford State School to be expanded to cater for years 11 and 12 in the foreseeable future.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Wilson', followed by a period.

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Education and Training

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