

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for forwarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 11 March 2003 concerning the air conditioning of schools in southwest Queensland.

The current Cooler Schools Zone has been determined so that students in schools, who experience the combination of high humidity and heat, benefit from the program. The zone is currently limited to the geographical area north of 20° latitude as well as including the former Capricornia and northern education districts. It is acknowledged that there are areas outside this zone that also experience high temperatures. However, the State Government is committed to installing air conditioning to schools within the current zone before any consideration is given to extending that zone.

The petition focused on St George Primary School, which is not in the current Cooler Schools Zone. A subsidy can not be provided from the Cooler Schools program, however, the school Parents and Citizens Association have undertaken a fundraising program for the installation of Air Conditioning and sought advice and assistance from the Cooler Schools Unit regarding alternate measures of cooling and project management.

I trust this information will be of assistance when replying to the signatories to the petition.

Yours sincerely

**Anna Bligh MP**  
**Minister for Education**

Ref: 03/22495