



Hon Geoff Wilson MP
Member for Ferny Grove

24 DEC 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Email: TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Education and Training

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 1584 -10 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 24 November 2010, expressing support for the Mount Crosby State School Parents and Citizens Association (P&C), and in particular the library and multipurpose hall funded under the Australian Government's *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) program.

I am advised by the Department of Education and Training as follows:

Mount Crosby State School was approved for \$3 million worth of funding under the Australian Government's *Primary Schools of the 21st Century* (P21) element of the BER program for the construction of a new resource centre and multipurpose hall.

Under the Australian Government's BER guidelines, funding allocation was determined on "the basis of a primary school's total full-time equivalent student enrolments as determined by the February [2009] census data collection undertaken by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for BER purposes".

The Australian Government's first priority under the P21 element of the BER program is libraries/resource centres and the second priority is multipurpose halls.

The school's current resource centre is undersized in accordance with the Department of Education and Training's current standards. In accordance with the BER guidelines, the newly constructed resource centre facility is being provided as the highest priority. This will supplement the existing facility bringing the school's total resource centre up to contemporary standards.

The Mount Crosby State School P&C had started developing plans for a hall prior to BER, costed at \$6.9 million. The Federal Government grant was capped at \$3 million and had to be spent in accordance with Federal Government guidelines. The builder who had worked with the school on this design was invited to tender for the BER project, but declined.

There was no promise of a multipurpose sports hall. The design phase is a collaborative process between the BER project team and the school community to arrive at a design that makes the most out of the fixed budget within the Federal Government's BER guidelines.

Several months of consultation were undertaken between the project team and the Principal and P&C to arrive at the final design in this case. The Mount Crosby State School community requested specific design modifications, including to the hall, which they signed off on. It was the school's preference to maximise the footprint of the building area of the hall rather than build a smaller hall that is completely enclosed. The Department's preference was to build a smaller, fully enclosed hall in the first instance. The agreed design enables the hall to be fully enclosed in the future.

Level 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3237 1000
Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335
Email education@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.education.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

The site at Mount Crosby State School is exceptional with site-specific challenges and required land fill, retaining walls, piered footings and extensive site services due to the site being less accessible and sloping.

The BER project team provided the Mount Crosby school community what they requested within the funds available.

The construction phase of the project is underway. The Department will continue to work with the Mount Crosby school community to get the best possible outcome for Mount Crosby students while also achieving value-for-money.

If you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter please contact Mr Craig Robinson, Executive Director Infrastructure Program Management on telephone (07) 3224 2826.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Wilson", written in a cursive style.

GEOFF WILSON MP
Minister for Education and Training

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