



Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

03 SEP 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to e-Petition 2108-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 6 August 2013 regarding the proposed closure of Nyanda State High School.

When making my consideration to propose Nyanda State High School for closure, analysis was conducted on various criteria including the Day 8 enrolment figures and the proximity of neighbouring schools. Over the past five years Nyanda State High School has experienced declining student numbers within its catchment, with this trend expected to continue in the medium to long term.

With 297 students enrolled in 2013 and a capacity to accommodate almost 700 students, Nyanda State High School's current utilisation rate is around 43%. Of the 834 state school students who live within the catchment area of Nyanda State High School, only 175 students actually attend the school. This means almost 80% of students in the catchment area are already choosing to go to another school.

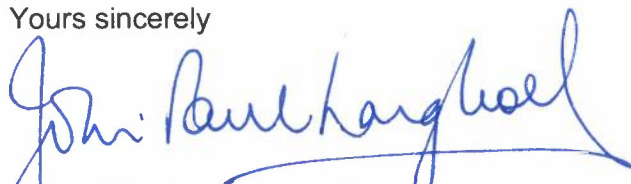
I wanted to ensure genuine community consultation had occurred prior to making a final determination regarding the best future option for Nyanda State High School. This is why my Department engaged an independent consultant, JTA Australia, to lead and manage the consultation process.

Please be assured that the recent community consultation process associated with this proposal does not mean that Nyanda State High School will automatically close, as a final decision has not yet been made.

The period for written submissions regarding the proposed closure ended on 26 July 2013. The consultant's report is currently being reviewed. I acknowledge receipt of the e-petition and the 141 signatories. As you are aware the e-petition was received after the closing date, and as such it will not be included in the consultant's report. I expect to announce my decision regarding the proposed closure in the near future after giving the consultant's report my full consideration.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising this matter with me and trust this response addresses their concerns.

Yours sincerely


JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP
Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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