



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

11 OCT 2013

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to e-Petition 2123-13 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 September 2013 regarding the closure of Fortitude Valley State School.

I acknowledge the concern of the 483 petitioners regarding the proposed closure of Fortitude Valley State School announced in May 2013.

When making my consideration to propose Fortitude Valley State School for closure, analysis was conducted on various criteria including the Day 8 enrolment figures and the proximity of neighbouring schools.

When a school is proposed for closure, consultation occurs to allow the community to have their say about the future education options for students. The consultation undertaken provided the opportunity for input from all stakeholders, the Parents and Citizens' Association and the wider school community, while also taking into account local circumstances that should be considered as part of a final determination. The period for written submissions regarding the proposed closure ended on 26 July 2013.

Following consideration of the community consultation and the school viability assessment, on 17 September 2013, I announced my decision that Fortitude Valley State School will close at the end of Term 4 2013.

I acknowledge this is a challenging time for the community and I have not taken this action lightly. My Department will work with parents, students and staff to assist in the transition to alternative schools in 2014.

The welfare of students continues to be my highest priority and between now and the end of the school year, Student Transition Kits will be developed for all students to help them move to their new school. All primary students except those completing Year 7 are eligible for an allowance of \$500, and secondary students, except those completing Year 12 are eligible for an allowance of \$750. The allowances are to assist to cover out of pocket expenses for new school uniforms and other incidentals.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

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