



Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I write regarding Petitions 2343–14 and 2384–15 which were tabled on 5 May 2015 and I note Petitioners' request that the government fund the construction of an arts and sports hall Toowoomba State High School's Wilsonton Campus.

I note, as reported in the media, that during the 2015 State Election, the Member for Toowoomba North committed to delivering an arts and sports hall at Toowoomba State High School's Wilsonton Campus if re-elected.

On becoming Minister, I discovered that the former LNP government had not allocated any funds to this project. Furthermore, this project was not prioritised by the former LNP government in the forward estimates. It is concerning that the Member made a pledge to his local community to deliver a project that was not funded by his government.

Future capital works funding decisions will be made as part of the budget process however, I must advise petitioners that there are significant financial constraints. This is due to the fact that the former LNP government committed to funding 10 new schools in South East Queensland under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

As a result of this decision by the former LNP government, approximately one third of the capital works funding that could be allocated to projects such as new school halls must be directed to payments to support PPP schools in South East Queensland. The remainder is most likely going to be required to deliver new classrooms to cater for growth in student numbers across Queensland.

I understand this is disappointing for schools outside South East Queensland, including Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton Campus. Furthermore, I am concerned by the Member for Toowoomba North's election commitment to deliver a school hall given he was a Member of a government that had not allocated any funding to this project.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Kevin Mara, Assistant Director-General, Infrastructure Services, Department of Education and Training on telephone 3034 4520 or by email at kevin.mara@dete.qld.gov.au.

Your petitioners' advocacy on behalf of Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton Campus is appreciated and I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Jones', with a small dash at the end.

KATE JONES MP
Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events,
Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

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