



## Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

13 JUN 2018

1 William Street Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7110  
Email: [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Email: [industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Email: [tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petitions 2857-18 and 2929-18 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 May 2018 regarding a business model for a new high school in the south-west area of Toowoomba.

The Department of Education closely monitors enrolment growth in state schools to ensure that all students have access to quality educational facilities.

School infrastructure demand mapping is conducted through the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee in consultation with local government and the Independent and Catholic schooling sectors. This work assesses population trends, proposed residential developments and school capacity to help guide future planning and identify areas that may need new schools in the medium to long-term. In addition, the department relies on enrolment forecasts and population projections developed by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) to inform infrastructure decisions.

As identified by the petitioners, the two secondary schools that service the south and south-west of Toowoomba are Harristown State High School and Centenary Heights State High School. QGSO projections support the identification of growth in the area; however, the department is confident future in-catchment enrolment growth can be accommodated in the short to medium-term through expansion of the existing sites.

The department has committed to significant infrastructure spend to these schools with \$10.5 million to Centenary Heights State High School for a two-storey performing arts centre, including five new general learning areas and conversion of existing buildings into specialist spaces and \$14 million to Harristown State High School for a new multi-storey teaching building, including new administration and 14 general learning areas.

This significant infrastructure spend in the south and south-west Toowoomba region is expected to accommodate in-catchment enrolment growth over the medium-term; however, please be assured the department will continue to monitor growth in the area and provide additional infrastructure, if required.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I invite you to contact Mr Kevin Mara, Assistant Director-General, Infrastructure Services, on 3034 4520 or by email at [kevin.mara@ged.qld.gov.au](mailto:kevin.mara@ged.qld.gov.au).

Pursuant to Standing Order 32, it would be appreciated if you could table the petition on the next sitting day.

I would like to thank your petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**GRACE GRACE MP**  
**Minister for Education and**  
**Minister for Industrial Relations**

Ref: 18/259218