



# Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

17 JUN 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3267-20 tabled on 19 May 2020 in the Legislative Assembly requesting that the Department of Education reverse the decision to declare 17 Kings Road, Russell Island, as surplus to requirements.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring all students, no matter where they live, have access to high quality learning opportunities within their local communities.

I can confirm that the vacant school reserve land described as Lot 4 on SL848592 on Russell Island is owned by the department and was recently subject to community consultation to seek feedback on the potential use of this land.

During community consultation, a local community group identified the possibility of a botanical garden on the site. I am advised the department is yet to determine the long-term use of the land and will continue to liaise with Redland City Council and the community regarding its future use.

While the department continues to monitor student population and projections on Russell Island and the surrounding islands, it is not considered large enough to support the need for a new secondary school. At present, the department does not have any plans for a future new secondary school on the site.

There are currently 152 state secondary students residing on Russell Island and 407 state secondary students residing in the Redland Islands Statistical Area Level 2. In the Redland Islands area, the populated areas of North Stradbroke Island are within the catchment of Cleveland District State High School and the other islands are within the catchment of Victoria Point State High School. These schools offer the breadth of curriculum and specialty classes required for a modern state high school.

In relation to the future development of schools in the area, I can advise that the department conducts ongoing analysis for new schools planning and is actively involved in cross-sectoral new school demand mapping activities through the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee (QSPRC).

In mid-2018, the QSPRC held a demand mapping meeting with Redland City Council and relevant stakeholders and it was assessed that there is sufficient schooling resources for the Redland Islands area, including Russell Island. The QSPRC held a follow up meeting with Redland City Council on 20 May 2020 and the outcomes of this meeting are under review.

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

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Grace', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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

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