



Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

17 JUN 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3294-20 tabled on 19 May 2020 in the Legislative Assembly requesting air conditioning in Picnic Creek State School.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the impact excessive heat can have on the health and wellbeing of students and staff, and is committed to providing improved learning environments for our teachers and students.

I am pleased to advise that on 27 February 2020, the Palaszczuk Government announced the *Cooler Cleaner Schools Program* (CCSP) which is providing a total funding package of more than \$477 million to air condition state schools and expand the existing *Advancing Clean Energy Schools* program.

The CCSP will ensure Queensland state school classrooms, libraries and staff rooms are air conditioned by the end of June 2022, delivering more comfortable teaching and learning environments for our students, teachers and school communities.

In total under this program, some 650 state schools, including Picnic Creek State School, will benefit from air conditioning installations, making an additional 10,000 classrooms cooler and more comfortable.

As at 15 June 2020, contract award for the installation of air conditioning at Picnic Creek State School is forecast to occur in late August 2020.

Additionally, the CCSP is providing a further \$71 million over three years to create a virtual solar farm on state school roof tops that will be used to power these additional air conditioners across the State.

The CCSP will also fund ongoing maintenance and replacement of existing air conditioning units in Queensland state schools.

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 the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace", written over a large, stylized oval flourish.

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations