



Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations

22 MAY 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 3322-20 tabled on 22 April 2020 and 3270-20 tabled on 19 May 2020 in the Legislative Assembly requesting the transfer of the former Pallara State School site and all existing infrastructure at 282 Ritchie Road, Pallara, in trust to the Brisbane City Council at no cost for the purpose of a multicultural community hub.

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.

In 2016, the Department of Education relocated Pallara State School to its current location at 39 Ritchie Road, Pallara. The department wishes to retain ownership of the former Pallara State School site at 282 Ritchie Road to meet the potential need for a future state school in this community.

The department, in conjunction with the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee, is continually monitoring the demand for schools in the area. On 28 November 2019, the Committee held a demand-mapping meeting with the Brisbane City Council and relevant stakeholders. This work assesses population trends, proposed development and school capacity to help guide future planning, and is underpinned by student population projections developed by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office.

At this meeting, it was identified that potentially up to two new secondary schools (government or non-government) may be required in the areas of Inala-Richlands and Forest Lake-Doolandella by 2031. Additionally, it was acknowledged that the new secondary schools recommended were intended to also support growth in Pallara.

I can advise that the former Pallara State School site is currently used by the department's Metropolitan Regional Office to hold conferences, training and meetings to support the schools within this geographical area. The regional office is also exploring other educational opportunities for the site to support the local school network.

In addition, the Queensland Police Service dog squad and the Presbyterian Reformed Church Brisbane South utilise the site. The department welcomes requests for short-term use of any available facilities on the former school site. Requests for consideration can be made through the Metropolitan Regional Office's Facilities Manager on (07) 3028 8283 or by email at geoffrey.elliott@ged.qld.gov.au.

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', enclosed within a large, sweeping, hand-drawn oval shape.

GRACE GRACE MP
Minister for Education and
Minister for Industrial Relations

Ref: 20/241206