



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

14 DEC 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3621-21 tabled on 16 November 2021 and Petition 3651-21 tabled on 17 November 2021 in the Legislative Assembly requesting to reinstate Year 11 and 12 at the Herberton State School Secondary Campus.

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

The introduction of Year 11 and 12 requires consideration of a range of factors including the delivery of a senior secondary curriculum to small cohorts of students and the suitability of school infrastructure to support this curriculum delivery.

When planning for new secondary schools, or new secondary year-level offerings, the Department of Education considers a range of factors including current and future school-age population, the existing school network and any impacts of a new school or year-level offering on these existing schools. Additionally, implications regarding qualified staff to provide a varied, competitive and quality senior secondary curriculum that enables students to achieve their Queensland Certificate of Education and Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, and extra-curricular activities, also need to be considered.

Herberton State School enrolls 147 students from Prep to Year 10. The school currently enrolls between 11 and 22 students in each primary year level (Prep to Year 6) and between five and 11 students in each secondary year level (Year 7 to Year 10). Enrolments are forecast to decline modestly over the next five years with no longer-term growth projected within the school catchment area.

Students residing in Herberton are within the senior secondary catchment of Atherton State High School, approximately 18 kilometres to the north-east. Twenty-one students from Herberton and surrounding areas attend Atherton State High School for Years 11 and 12.

The proximity of Atherton State High School, and the low numbers of Year 11 and 12 students local to Herberton State School, do not generally support the need to deliver Year 11 and 12 at Herberton State School; however, the department will continue to monitor the student numbers and work with the school community to respond to local needs.

I would like to thank petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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