



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

7 DEC 2023

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 16 November 2023 regarding Petition No. 3930-23, a high school for the western Brisbane area.

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.

The Department of Education conducts ongoing analysis to inform new schools planning through the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee (QSPRC). This work assesses population trends, proposed residential developments and school capacity to help guide future planning and is underpinned by student population projections developed by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO).

To inform this process, the department also formally engages with a broad range of stakeholders, including local councils and state and non-state education organisations, to identify where and when investment should be targeted to meet student demand.

Since the release of the 2023 edition of the Queensland Population Projections in June 2023, the department has consulted with the QSPRC on projected growth in the Ipswich City Council area. The department will also consult with the QSPRC on the projected growth in the Brisbane City Council area in early 2024. Findings for these consultations will be released online in early 2024, including any recommendations for new schools across the state and non-state systems.

In considering current and forecast population projections, the department notes that population and enrolment growth within the Moggill Electorate has not increased sufficiently in the past few years to support delivery of a new state secondary school. Therefore, currently, there is no commitment to open a new state secondary school on the western fringe of the Moggill Electorate to specifically support the suburbs of Moggill, Bellbowrie, Anstead, Pinjarra Hills, Karana Downs and Mount Crosby.

The suburbs of Moggill, Bellbowrie, Anstead, and Pinjarra Hills are currently serviced by the Kenmore State High School catchment and the suburbs of Karana Downs and Mount Crosby are serviced by the Ipswich State High School catchment.

As at August 2023, Kenmore State High School had 2002 student enrolments and Ipswich State High School had 1860 student enrolments. Short to medium enrolment forecasts indicate that both Kenmore State High School and Ipswich State High School will continue to have sufficient capacity up to the year 2028. Over the longer term, forecast projections for both schools anticipate the number of in-catchment students will remain below enrolment capacity.

I would like to thank the principal petitioner and every person who signed the petition for their advocacy for a high school in the western Brisbane area.

Yours sincerely

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

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

Ref: 23/865133