

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 11 August 2005 concerning Petition No. 502-05 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly from residents of Mareeba.

I appreciate the concerns of the petitioners. However, the new Preparatory Year of learning is based upon the principle that students will be integrated into their school community on all state school campuses. Our Prep Year trial has shown that the integration of Prep classes into the school community supports the development of students and their transition into Year 1.

My department is committed to the disposal of off-site preschools in association with the introduction of the Prep Year. The revenue generated from sale of off-site preschools will assist with the provision of appropriate facilities for Prep Year students across the State.

The introduction of the Prep Year is a huge investment in the future of Queensland students and our government is very excited about the opportunities it will provide. My department will continue to work with the Mareeba State School community on the best possible solution for the implementation of the Prep Year at this school.

Thank you once again for bringing this petition to my attention. I am pleased to take this opportunity to respond to the concerns of the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

Ref: 05/82298