



The Honourable Rod Welford MP

25 JUL 2006



**Queensland  
Government**

Minister for Education  
Minister for the Arts

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
Corner Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 10 May 2006 concerning the petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 9 May 2006 numbered 570-05.

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the safety and well being of students and staff in Queensland's state schools is a priority for the Government.

Our Government has been the first in Queensland to comprehensively address this issue and to provide funding to replace all asbestos roofs in Queensland state schools. An audit completed by the Department of Public Works indicated there were 933 asbestos roofs in schools.

The \$120m Asbestos Roof Replacement Program is based on priority and has reached a milestone of over 360 roofs in the 12 months since the program began.

The Government is aiming to continue this excellent rate of progress over the next 12 months. It is planned that a further 177 roofs will be replaced between June and November 2006, weather permitting. This would achieve more than half the program within the first 18 months. This acceleration has been made possible through increased building industry capacity and replacement work being undertaken at weekends and during school holidays.

I am pleased to advise that all asbestos roofs at Coolum State School, Cooroy State School, Noosa District State High School, Pomona State School and Tewantin State School have been replaced under the program. No asbestos roofs were identified at Eumundi State School in the Department of Public Works audit of state school roofs.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you can contact Mr Paul Bini, Senior Policy Adviser on telephone (07) 3237 1000.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

**Rod Welford MP**

Ref: 06/63462

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