



The Honourable Rod Welford MP



**Queensland
Government**

6 AUG 2007

**Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 7 June 2007 regarding the petition lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 5 June 2007, numbered 785-07, regarding the proposed closure of Amberley State School.

Late in 2006, I received correspondence from the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson, Minister for Defence informing me of plans to increase the security perimeter of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base at Amberley and that this would have an impact on Amberley State School. The letter advised that preliminary discussions between the Defence Department and Education Queensland had occurred and that the Defence Department had been asked to continue liaising with Education Queensland to find an appropriate solution, so that students and parents could be advised as soon as possible on the future of their school.

On 14 December 2006, I advised Dr Nelson that Education Queensland was reviewing a range of options to address the relocation and that once a solution had been identified, in cooperation with the Defence Department, a proposal outlining appropriate financial support processes would be officially conveyed to the Minister for Defence for his consideration.

I am pleased to announce that the negotiations between Education Queensland and the Federal Defence Department are now completed and that funds have been set aside for the construction of a new state school. Officers from my department are currently working to identify an appropriate site.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, you can contact Mr Keith Hynes, Regional Executive Director, Moreton Region on telephone (07) 3280 1197.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP

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Level 22 Education House
30 Mary Street Brisbane
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia

Telephone +61 7 3237 1000

Facsimile +61 7 3229 5335

Email educationandarts@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Website www.education.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158