

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 9 August 2007 regarding the future of the old Atherton Primary School, Petition No 870-07, received by the House on 8 August 2007.

Although the petition relates to the former Atherton State School, the property is now a Reserve for Local Government purposes under the trusteeship of the local authority. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts has not had any interest in this property since the new Atherton State School was developed some 30 years ago.

At that time, the Atherton Shire Council agreed to make land available for the new Atherton State School on the condition that the former Atherton State School was transferred to council. To implement this agreement, the Reserve for State School purposes was cancelled and the Reserve for Local Government purposes created. This process was managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Water under the Land Act.

While the former Atherton State School is under the trusteeship of the local authority, the land remains state land and is ultimately under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Natural Resources and Water.

Accordingly, I have referred Petition No 870-07 to my colleague, the Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland for direct reply.

Should you require any further information, you can contact Mr Graham Atkins, Executive Director, Facilities Services Branch on telephone (07) 3237 0761.

Yours sincerely

**Rod Welford MP**

Ref: 07/106627

Your Ref: 870-07

cc: The Honourable Craig Wallace MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Water and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland

Ref CTS 09661/07

Mr N J Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to a letter from the Honourable Rod Welford MP, dated 12 September 2007, regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 870-07 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests the House to direct that the old Atherton Primary School remain in the hands of the State Government and be fully maintained so it can continue to serve a very valuable community role.

My department has been particularly active in this matter and officers of my department have attended each public consultation that has been undertaken.

This matter is presently being considered by Government in order to determine the most appropriate use for the site and who the land should vest in. This process takes into account future accommodation arrangements for present tenants, ecological and socioeconomic values, and the needs of the council and general community.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Craig Wallace MP  
**Minister for Natural Resources and Water and  
Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland**