



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

26 February 2021

Building Future Schools

Via email: buildingFutureSchools@ged.qld.gov.au

New school in the inner west

Dear Building Future Schools team,

As the initial round of consultation for Maiwar's new school concludes, I'd like to take this opportunity to formally summarise my thoughts, and those of hundreds of local residents who've been in touch with me, on the proposed location and first stages of planning for your consideration and records.

Firstly, thank you for your ongoing engagement with my office, and local residents. As you know, I'm strongly supportive of the new school, and I'm pleased the project is progressing. While I do have concerns about the way the consultation process has proceeded and the limited information that the Department has provided, I've appreciated our discussions, and the opportunity to provide input directly to you.

In formulating this brief submission, I'll attempt to summarise the feedback my office has received during the consultation period. To help me understand the community sentiment, over the last few months I've held a community meeting where I conducted a brief survey with over 150 attendees, hosted two "pop up offices", with approximately 20 attendees, and exchanged emails with hundreds of local residents. Additionally, I was able to attend two of your drop-in sessions, where I spoke with dozens of residents.

As the State MP I see it as my role in this process to facilitate as much resident engagement as possible, to assist with the consultation process, and ultimately to work with your team and local residents to find the best possible location for our new school.

Limitations of the consultation process

The overwhelming feedback I received from residents about the consultation process was that it was difficult to engage with, lacked sufficient documentation and information, and was unfairly skewed. Given the ISHS location was the only site proposed, residents were unable to effectively compare viable options.

As I've made clear on numerous occasions, I firmly believe the consultation on the location of the new school is of limited value without the release of more detailed information. It is essential the Department release without further delay:

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- The Inner West Catchment Study, which I understand underpinned the decision to confine the scope of this project to relieve pressure on Ironside SS and Indooroopilly SS, excluding Toowong SS;
- Updated enrollment projections for existing schools beyond 2024, which are not currently public;
- Heat maps or other analysis showing where enrolments at Indooroopilly and Ironside SS are drawn from;
- Demographic or planning analysis showing the relevant future development pressures;
- Built capacity at surrounding primary schools after the completion of currently funded upgrades; and
- Details about alternative sites that the Department has considered, including factors for and against those other sites.

Without these basic details, it is impossible for residents to properly consider the appropriateness of the proposed location, and how it compares with other possible sites. Despite committing to release a number of these documents publicly during our briefing on 12 January, no further information was made available to the public to assist in a robust and constructive process.

I note that in a meeting with Minister Grace on 23 February 2021 the Minister did agree to release a broader range of information about the Department's considerations about the site, so I am hopeful that the above information can be released in the next week.

Concerns with the ISHS site

As you are aware, there is deep concern in the community about the proposed location of the new school at the Indooroopilly SHS campus. This is primarily based on the existing traffic issues as a result of the four schools with around 5,500 within two blocks of the proposed location - Indooroopilly SHS, St Peters Lutheran College, Brigidine College and Holy Family Primary School.

Particularly in light of these issues, I am concerned that the community isn't able to have a meaningful conversation about potential locations for the school without the kind of information I've requested above and whatever information the Department can provide about alternative sites under consideration.

Public and active transport improvements

Given this is the first new primary school built in the inner city in decades, I believe the Department must commit up front to significant spending on public and active transport improvements at the point of making a decision about location.

These commitments should be formalised and further elaborated in during the Ministerial Infrastructure Designation (MID) process, but giving them up front will be vital to maintain community support for the new school and to ease concerns about traffic.

In the event that the Department does settle on Indooroopilly State High School site, I believe those improvements should, subject to community consultation, include as a minimum:

- State funding to Translink to create more school bus services, targeting high school students at ISHS, St Peters and Brigidine, including better dedicated school bus services for Indooroopilly, Taringa, Toowong, Fig Tree Pocket and Chapel Hill.
- Expanding the existing 40km school zone or creating a permanent 40km area in the Lambert Rd / Central Ave / Indooroopilly Rd precinct.

- Joint State and Council funding to build Brisbane City Council's long-planned Indooroopilly bikeway stages 3 and 4 on Lambert Rd (linking Witton Barracks with St Lucia Esplanade bikeway)
- State funding for safer or improved pedestrian crossings along Lambert Rd (Clarence Rd, Central Ave, Fairley St and Carnarvon Rd) as well as improving the existing zebra crossing across Clarence Rd near Ward St.
- A permanent Active School Travel program at every school in the precinct to help families switch away from car dependency, funded by Council, the State government and the relevant non-government schools.
- Creating an Integrated Traffic Management Plan for all schools in the precinct as part of any future MID process, including mode share targets for walking, cycling and public transport for all schools.
- State support by way of administrative approval for Brisbane City Council to pedestrianise the end of Lambert Rd between Indooroopilly Station and Clarence Rd (based on Council's *Witton Barracks Master Plan*)

Residents have also expressed concerns about keeping access for local residents to the ISHS oval outside school hours which could be allayed by committing to continuing open access to the green space on school grounds after hours. Parents at ISHS are understandably concerned about reducing play space for students. Given the existing size of ISHS, some residents are also worried about limiting space for future expansion at ISHS if and when it is eventually required. There is also some level of concern about possible impacts on large established trees, particularly on the corner of Carnarvon Rd and Lambert Rd.

While these concerns remain unaddressed, and both I and local residents have no access to the above mentioned information and demographic details, I feel unable to fully support this location for the new school.

Need to consider alternative sites

As mentioned, without proper information being provided about alternative sites, it's difficult for me to co-ordinate and assess the best alternative locations.

Following extensive feedback from residents, I have published my nine guiding principles for the location of the new school [on my website here](#).

I have also received hundreds of suggestions from locals about their preferred locations. The most popular suggestions appear to be:

- The QASMT site, moving the existing Academy to another location
- The SES Depot, Shell service station and some land near the former Toowong Bowls Club
- The proposed Tricare site at 52 Seven Oak St, Taringa

I understand, based on your maps at the drop in sessions, that these locations were among the most popular suggestions via the online survey. I've compiled the major pros and cons, along with some apparently less viable site options [on my website here](#).

Next steps

While I strongly agree that the additional primary school capacity is urgently needed, if the Department requires more time to improve the community consultation and to identify and acquire a more appropriate site for the school, I would not oppose delaying the current deadline of opening the school on day one 2023 by one year. As I have made clear to your team, the Minister, and the community, this is

incredibly important infrastructure that will shape our community for generations to come. Getting this process right is more important than doing it quickly.

With this in mind, I would like to see the Department publish the information listed above as a matter of priority, in addition to the results of the first round of consultation, then re-open the consultation process to enable a robust discussion comparing a number of viable site options.

I am very appreciative of your work on this project, and look forward to collaborating closely in the months and years to come. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if I can be of assistance, or you'd like to discuss any matter in this submission in further detail.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Berkman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Berkman MP