



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

24 February 2021

The Hon Minister Grace Grace MP
Minister for Education
Via email: education@ministerial.qld.gov.au

New school in the inner west

Dear Minister Grace,

Thanks very much for your time yesterday. I'm writing to confirm a couple of outcomes from our meeting. As we discussed I'm strongly supportive of the new school, and I'm pleased the project is progressing.

As we discussed, local residents and I consider the Department's consultation on the location of the new school is of limited value without the release of more detailed information, and I believe the Department should release:

- 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.

I have published my nine guiding principles for the location of the new school [on my website here](#).

I know you're aware, both from our meeting and from the feedback being received by the Building Future Schools team, that there is deep concern in the community about the proposed location of the new school at the Indooroopilly SHS campus, and that this is primarily based on the existing traffic issues as a result of the four schools in the immediate vicinity of this 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.

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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.

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

- 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 St, Central Ave, Fairley St and Carnarvon St) as well as improving the existing zebra crossing across Clarence St 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, including mode share targets for walking, cycling and public transport for all schools.
- Support for Brisbane City Council in pedestrianizing the end of Lambert Rd between Indooroopilly Station and Clarence St (based on Council's *Witton Barracks Master Plan*)

While I acknowledge 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 you delaying by one year the current deadline of day one 2023.

I look forward to receiving any additional information you can provide to inform the site selection and details of any further community consultation the Department will undertake. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if I can be of assistance.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP