



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

7 May 2021

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

Maiwar's new school: updates and request for a meeting

Dear Minister Grace,

I write following your Ministerial response to a community petition opposing building Maiwar's new school on the grounds of Indooroopilly State High School (Petition 3466-21 tabled on 9 March 2021). I'd like to request a meeting with you to discuss the next steps for this project, including whether the Government will consider a budget allocation for acquisition of land in the upcoming State Budget 2021/2022.

As you know, I'm strongly supportive of the new school, and I'm pleased the project is progressing. I am keen to support your Department in any way possible to find the best possible location for this crucial infrastructure, and believe I can offer some useful insight into the local community's needs and wishes from my ongoing engagement and consultation over the last four years as the Member for Maiwar.

I note that your response acknowledged the significant opposition to the proposal to locate the school on ISHS grounds, and indicated that the department is now investigating the feasibility of alternative sites, including by consulting the land register. While I'm surprised that these steps apparently hadn't been taken before now, and disappointed that the Government didn't propose any alternatives for consideration during the community consultation period, I am pleased that this is now happening.

As I've indicated to you previously, there is considerable opposition within the community to locating the school at either ISHS or QASMT. Most in the community would like to see the State Labor Government expand Queensland's education assets and facilities by acquiring new land to build this primary school. Given the increasing densification of the inner-west, and the inevitable need to educate more students in our state schools in the decades to come, I agree that the most sensible option is to purchase new land for the school. I'd appreciate the opportunity to discuss potential site options currently being investigated by the Department, and the importance of releasing further information to the public about alternative sites.

I also urge the Government to consider an allocation of funding for land acquisition for this school in the 2021/22 State Budget. I understand this was not included in the 2020/21 Budget given the proposal to use existing Government land for the school but, now that consultation has progressed, I am hopeful that

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you will take on board the community's clear feedback and that this will be reflected in the Budget with a suitable allocation for land acquisition.

I was pleased to see your agreement that traffic planning and safety concerns needed to be addressed collaboratively by both the State Government and Council. As you know, I'm committed to working with your Department, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Brisbane City Council to address these congestion and safety issues regardless of where the school goes. My office is currently conducting a survey about transport usage with families at the four existing schools around Lambert Rd. Almost 1,000 responses have been received so far, and we'd be pleased to present the results once completed.

I have recently sought a briefing from the Building Future Schools team, and would very much appreciate the opportunity to have another conversation with you about this project at your earliest convenience. In the meantime, I would appreciate any additional information you can provide to inform the site selection (as requested previously), details of any further community consultation the Department will undertake, and how the process of choosing a site and future design stages will progress from this point.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if I can be of assistance.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Berkman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Berkman MP