

Moora Education Precinct

The Nationals WA plan to rebuild education in Moora

The McGowan State Government plans to close Moora (St James) Residential College at the end of 2018, creating a significant void in education services for regional communities located between Perth and Geraldton.

Closure of Moora Residential College will have a devastating impact on the region's student population, local businesses that supply the College and the broader community in Moora and surrounds. We already know the number one reason regional families leave their communities is because schooling options they desire are unavailable locally. The Nationals WA believe a modern and integrated education precinct is integral to retaining a strong population in Moora and promoting future growth of the district.

We understand regional communities value equitable access to education and want to cement Moora's place as the central hub for delivering a comprehensive education curriculum to students throughout the Central Midlands.

DISCUSSION

In the 2016-17 State Budget The Nationals in Government allocated \$8.7 million for a substantial upgrade of Moora Residential College. This was based on a comprehensive building assessment and planning advice. We remain committed to a refurbishment to this standard, which would secure the long-term future of education infrastructure and services for Central Midlands communities.

We also consider a dedicated education precinct comprising a K-12 community college, modern residential facilities and integrated TAFE will stamp

Moora's status as a key regional centre delivering high quality education as well as many other services for the region.

The K-12 community college model was delivered by The Nationals in Government at both Merredin and Carnarvon. Mt Barker is also home to a successful community college. These developments have proven to stimulate local economies during construction phase, improve attraction and retention of staff and allow for the inclusion of specialised, purpose-built facilities to enhance education outcomes for students.

Delivering a comprehensive and integrated education precinct in Moora gives parents from the Central Midlands confidence educating their children closer to home. Pooling of resources, improving economies of scale, providing contemporary facilities, enhancing the learning and teaching experience and giving community members access to affordable education are key components of our ongoing regional development plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Re-commit \$8.7 million to refurbish Moora Residential College.
- ✓ Develop a plan to build a fully integrated education precinct, including the residential college, a K-12 community college and TAFE facilities.

