



Speech by  
**Ian Rickuss**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

Hansard Thursday, 11 October 2007

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## **AMBERLEY STATE SCHOOL**

**Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—NPA) (8.51 pm): I rise to speak about the Amberley State School. This afternoon I had the pleasure of being given leave from this place to go to Amberley State School to attend a meeting with the federal defence minister, Brendan Nelson. That meeting was organised by the Amberley State School committee, which is fighting for the relocation of Amberley State School into the Willowbank area. That move will actually be of great benefit to the Willowbank area, as that area needs some social infrastructure and the Amberley State School has always provided some of that social infrastructure. Moving the Amberley State School to the Willowbank area would be ideal.

Unfortunately, the minister for education, Mr Welford, has some ridiculous idea of moving the school to Yamanto, which to me is ridiculous. All he seems to be doing is trying to get the \$26 million that the federal government has promised for the relocation of the school so that he can replace the older school at Churchill. I honestly believe that the community at Willowbank and the people who actually send their children to Amberley State School deserve to have the school relocated to the Willowbank area. It is what the community wants. It should be remembered that we are elected to represent the people of our community, not to think of ways in which we can outsmart another level of government. That appears to be what the state government is trying to do with the federal government on this issue.

I congratulate people such as Melissa, Catherine and the members of the committee who have been working tirelessly to support the Amberley State School. A lot of the families in the Amberley area have been there for generations. Some of the service families have worked extremely hard to raise the issue of the relocation of Amberley State School. There is also George Hatchman out at Amberley. He is the unofficial mayor of Amberley and Willowbank, simply because of the fact that he has been involved in the Air Force and now is a long-time resident of Willowbank. George Hatchman heads WAGS, the community group that has been given the job of promoting the Willowbank area, and it does a wonderful job. George is just one of those great Australians who puts in a lot of effort into his community. He spends a lot of time working for his community. People such as George are to be congratulated on the amount of effort that they put in. I have tried to organise a meeting between Minister Welford and WAGS. Unfortunately I have not had a reply for over three weeks now, which is a bit disconcerting. I fully support the Amberley State School being relocated to Willowbank.

Time expired.