




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Atherton State High School**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (5.43 pm): Yesterday I tabled a petition on behalf of the residents of the Atherton Tablelands. The petition is headed 'Atherton State High School—NO to Independent School Program'. It states—

We the residents of Atherton and surrounds wish to draw to the attention of the house the community dissatisfaction with the application for acceptance into the 2014 Independent Public Schools program by the Atherton State High School.

We believe that the Independent Public Schools program has not been running long enough in Queensland to demonstrate to the community that it benefits student outcomes, which is the primary aim of the public education system.

We call on the Minister to acknowledge that community consultation does not automatically imply community support. In light of the Ministers comments in Parliament Estimates Hearing on the 23/7/2013 "I cannot imagine that a principal, knowing that the majority of the community is opposed to becoming an independent public school ... that the principal would go ahead with trying to make an application to do so." "I would have thought that that school council would be making it pretty clear that there should not be an application."

The petition calls on the minister to withhold approval until the true community attitude has been adequately gauged.