




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

---

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Everton Park State High School**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.59 pm): I rise in the House to speak about a school in my community, Everton Park State High School. Everton Park State High School is one of two state high schools in my electorate. Everton Park State High School happens to be the former school of Minister Elmes. It has a great reputation and has produced some great people, including Geoffrey Rush. Geoffrey Rush, Glen Elmes: it is a wild mix.

I speak about the school today because Everton Park State High School is one of the schools gazetted for closure. Of course, when that was announced a couple of months ago, there was great angst amongst the school community. This school has a real viability issue. It has 230 school students in a facility that was built for 1,100. The viability issue is on two fronts. Of course, one is the financial viability issue, but there is also an educational issue. Everton Park State High School cannot offer the same range of subjects as can another high school. Nevertheless, it is a very good school and has a very good principal in Sue Wallace.

As they have gone through the consultation process over the past three months, I have counselled the school community not to base their argument on emotion. Of course that is the initial response and that is what they did. However, since then they have taken an incredibly mature approach. We have had a number of meetings with the P&C and the school community. I encouraged them to address the viability issues. I have written a framework for them to respond to. I am delighted to say that they have taken a mature approach. They recognise that there are viability issues and they have put a submission together that I think is very worthy of consideration and it is one that I am very happy to support.

They want to keep the school small. They have a unique environment. There are 230 kids. They recognise that 230 is too few, but they have a plan to go to 500. That will be a small school still in a secondary school context. They recognise that they need to be on a smaller footprint, so they have submitted that they are happy to use half the school campus. They are very willing to have a co-location partner. Part of the job that I have been doing over the past few months is looking for somebody who could come into the school. The submission has gone to the education minister. He is now considering it.

I pay tribute to the people who put together the submission. David Brock, the P&C president, has led this cause, along with Byron Adams and his wife, Sasha. Byron is the school chaplain and he has been sticking up for his people, just as he should as school chaplain. Mr Greg Herbert and his wife, Rosanda, and Byron's wife, Sasha, have also led the charge. I congratulate them on the way they have done this. We are looking forward to a good consideration of the proposal. I am very hopeful that we can keep a state high school presence in that part of the community at Everton Park.