




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Schools, Enrolment Management Plans

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.33 pm): I bring to the attention of the House an issue that I am starting to get more and more representations on from parents in my electorate and parents outside of my electorate, and that is the number of schools that now have enrolment management plans. Enrolment management plans come into place when a school cannot take any more students because of the sheer numbers. This is causing a heck of a lot of concern for parents. To my knowledge, at the moment around about 300 schools, nearly 25 per cent of our state schools, have enrolment management plans. This has a number of implications. One of the major implications is that parents have far less choice than they have ever had before. Parents want a choice in picking a school that suits their children. Some schools have strengths in particular areas, and parents want to have that option. This is causing them great concern.

There are some real practical implications with this. I have had a parent make representations to me about a high school in my electorate which the older siblings attended but the younger siblings will not be able to attend because of the enrolment management plan. I think that is a real issue, and it is one that I am asking the education minister to address. It has implications such as those I have already mentioned. It means less choice for parents, it means we have crowded classrooms and it means there has been an incredible lack of planning. Under the former LNP government and the leadership of former minister Langbroek, we put the Schools Planning Commission together. This was a great initiative. It came up with some really startling facts. It came up with the outcome that we are going to need about 40 or 50 schools built over the next 10 years. Then beyond that we are going to need another 50 or 60 schools. If we do not address this issue, we will have more and more crowded schools and fewer options for our parents to place their child in a school that they think will suit them best.

I know that the member for Beaudesert has a real issue in his area. The planning commission recognised that his area needed four schools over the next six years—two secondary and two primary. I am happy to continue to work with him to bring about some new schools in that area. It is well and good for the minister to say that we are going to have 875 extra teachers, but where are those teachers going to go? We do not have enough classrooms or schools to put those people into unless we have proper planning for the future and we build the number of schools that the expanding population of Queensland requires.

(Time expired)