

Question on Notice
No. 1036
Asked on 16 June 2011

Mr Dempsey asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr C Dick) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the Premier's announcement that the year 7 move into high school will go ahead in 2015 and the pressures it will create on existing infrastructure—
Will the Minister advise whether there are any plans for a new high school in the Bundaberg or Burnett Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

On 9 June 2011 the Queensland Government announced that Year 7 would transition to secondary school for the start of the 2015 school year.

The Government will provide \$328.2 million in new capital funding over four years to support the transition of Year 7 to state secondary schools and an additional \$81.3 million in new funding for capital assistance grants to assist non-state schools.

Infrastructure will be delivered in state schools on a school-by-school basis to meet the long-term educational needs of communities. The Department of Education and Training (DET) will take into account all existing and forecast enrolments and school capacities.

DET undertakes forward planning of school requirements on an annual rolling basis. I am advised that current enrolments of primary, secondary and special schools serving the Bundaberg and Burnett electorates show they are all operating below their capacities at this time.

I am also advised that enrolment forecasts at this time show existing spare space is expected to comfortably accommodate the forecast increases in student numbers when the Year 7 initiative is instigated.

The Department will continue to monitor to ensure appropriate planning occurs if forecast enrolments change from current projections.

In addition to providing new classrooms and flexible learning areas in high schools where they are required, the Government will also refurbish classrooms where necessary. Every state secondary school will also receive resource grants in order to purchase books, furniture and other equipment required for the move.

DET will continue to monitor state schools in the Bundaberg electorate, as with all state schools across Queensland, to ensure appropriate planning occurs for any possible enrolment changes.