

Question on Notice
No. 399
Asked on 24 March 2011

Dr Douglas asked the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations (Mr CR Dick) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the rapid growth in state school enrolments in the Gaven Electorate by non-residents-

- (1) Will the government conduct an assessment of the impact on school and community resources and funding caused therein?
- (2) What is the projected growth of non-resident enrolments for the next ten years (each year projected separately)?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

I have been advised by the Department of Education and Training that none of the schools in the Gaven electorate are over capacity or expected to need further accommodation due to enrolments of students from outside the catchment.

Current population trends show that the majority of schools in the electorate have stable to declining enrolments, and no space provision issues.

Park Lake State School was opened in 2008 to take pressure off enrolments at Pacific Pines State School, and it has been very effective. The facilities provided at Pacific Pines State School are sufficient to meet its needs now and into the future.

Student enrolment forecasts for all schools in the State are prepared annually. These enrolment forecasts do not separate out-of-catchment from in-catchment enrolments.

Park Lake State School, Pacific Pines State School, Pacific Pines State High School and Worongary State School all have enrolment management plans in place to ensure the schools' enrolments are not under pressure from out of catchment enrolments. The Department guarantees enrolment of Prep-Year 12 at their nearest school.

The Department of Education and Training will continue its forward planning processes, monitoring population and enrolment changes, and responding to community demand across Queensland, including in the Gaven electorate.

The Bligh Government is committed to investing in education in Queensland, and to giving Queensland kids the best start to learning and life. This Government's unprecedented investment in our schools includes the \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow (SSOT) school building and refurbishment program, the kindergarten building program, and five new schools opening in 2011.