

Question on Notice

No. 742

Asked on 15 September 2015

MR STEWART ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR TOURISM, MAJOR EVENTS, SMALL BUSINESS AND THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON K JONES) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the government's commitment to the delivery of new educational facilities in North-West Townsville —

Will the Minister outline this proposal and what it will mean for the people in the Burdell area?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question and for his active support for the delivery of the Palaszczuk Government's \$7.6 billion education policy agenda.

Unlike the previous Government, the Palaszczuk Government strongly values North Queensland's contribution to the state's social and economic fabric.

The Newman Government appeared to believe Government spending should largely stop at the boundaries of the State's south-east, the Palaszczuk Government is determined to deliver first-class facilities that honour Townsville's standing as one of Queensland's largest cities.

Our Government knows Townsville's north-western suburbs – including the suburb of Burdell – have been among the fastest-growing in the State for over a decade.

I am therefore delighted to advise the Honourable Member that the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$90 million (over the next four years) for a new primary school.

The Government's \$10 million commitment in 2015-16 will allow land to be purchased in Burdell, and planning for the new primary school to commence.

Starting in 2016-17, the first stage of construction will provide for approximately 400 students on opening in 2018. A further 450 students will be able to be accommodated for the start of the 2020 school year after the second stage is complete.

Master planning for a new high school for Townsville's north-western suburbs will also start soon. The process will include –

- identifying a preferred location; *and*
- a detailed demographic analysis to determine likely school enrolments for the short, medium and long-term.

With the delivery of these new schools, the Government aims to provide local schooling options to new and existing families living in this high-growth area, and relieve enrolment pressure on the existing school network.