

Question on Notice

No. 1146

Asked on 6 September 2018

MR M CRANDON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise, since February 2015, the (a) number of schools closed by the government, (b) location of those schools and (c) reason for closing them?

ANSWER:

Schools are considered for closure against criteria relating to current and projected enrolments, accessibility, curriculum and resourcing equity.

The Department of Education continually monitors enrolment growth, student and school infrastructure needs and assesses a range of factors when considering the future viability of schools including:

- declining enrolments and a continuing downward trend in the number of students living in the school's catchment;
- whether the school is the best educational option for students, given its size, and the availability of alternative learning options;
- distance to the next closest school;
- availability of transport; and
- the potential of future enrolment growth.

Community consultation is undertaken before any decision is taken to close a state school.

The steps followed for each of these consultations processes are as follows:

- a notice in the local paper advising of a community meeting and inviting written submissions to the regional office;
- letters to school staff and local families advising of proposed school closure;
- notices in neighbouring schools' newsletters;
- community meeting held at the school; and
- letter to State and Federal Members of Parliament, local Councils and other government department and agencies.

A list of school closures since February 2015 is provided at Attachment 1.

List of School closures since February 2015

Date Closed	School/Campus Name	DoE Geographic Region	Reason for Closure
31/12/2016	Ryeford State School	Darling Downs South West	No enrolments
31/12/2016	Helens Hill State School	North Queensland	No enrolments
31/12/2016	Bambaroo State School	North Queensland	No enrolments
20/07/2017	Tannymorel State School	Darling Downs South West	No enrolments
01/01/2018	Mackenzie River State School	Central Queensland	No enrolments
15/01/2018	Yowah State School	Darling Downs South West	No enrolments