

Question on Notice

No. 475

Asked on 2 April 2019

MR S ANDREW ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide information on how many secondary students are required from the Walkerston, Bakers Creek and Ooralea catchment area to justify opening a new state high school?

ANSWER:

In planning for student enrolment growth, the Department of Education considers the capacity of the existing school network, the ability to expand existing school sites, and growth in the local student population.

A key planning consideration for a new secondary school is ensuring that both existing schools and the new school will maintain sufficient enrolments to operate with the full breadth of curriculum and specialty classes required for a modern school.

The localities of Walkerston, Bakers Creek and Ooralea all fall within the secondary school catchment of Mackay State High School which currently has an enrolment of 1092 students and has built capacity for 1795.

In 2018, there were 535 state secondary school-aged students residing in the Statistical Areas Level 2 of Ooralea-Bakers Creek and Walkerston-Eton. This population is projected to grow only modestly over the coming two decades.

Based on the current and projected student population, there is available enrolment capacity in the existing school network.

The department regularly reviews its planning for all regions across Queensland and will continue to monitor student growth in the Mackay region.