

Question on Notice
No. 1330
Asked on 25 October 2023

MR T WATTS ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (a) the long-term strategy for education in Highfields and (b) what plans are in place to purchase new land for a second primary school in the northern section of Highfields?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring all students have access to high-quality educational facilities by building new schools where they are most needed across the State.

The Department of Education undertakes ongoing planning for new schools across Queensland, engaging with local governments and the non-state education sector through the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee (QSPRC).

QSPRC organises new school demand mapping meetings with high-growth local government areas. These meetings allow for consultation with stakeholders from State and local government, along with State and non-State education representatives, and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO).

QSPRC considers population trends, current and future residential development, and existing school capacity, with consultation underpinned by student population projections developed by the QGSO. The projections are informed by advice provided by local governments regarding land development and indicative timelines for development.

A demand mapping meeting was last held with the Toowoomba Regional Council on 20 November 2019. Results from these meetings are published on the QSPRC website at www.education.qld.gov.au/schools-educators/school-types/new-schools/qsprc.

This meeting recommended that up to one new government or non-government primary school could be required to support the Highfields area by 2031.

A new series of cross-sectoral demand mapping meetings with high-growth local government areas across Queensland commenced in October 2023, using the 2023 edition of the *Queensland Government Population Projections*, published on 12 June 2023. As part of this process, a meeting with the Toowoomba Regional Council will be held in the first half of 2024.

The department will continue to review planning for the local area on a regular basis and respond to changes in prospective growth.