

Question on Notice

No. 652

Asked on 24 May 2023

MR S BENNETT ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the influx of new families moving to coastal areas from Burnett Heads to Elliott Heads in my electorate—

Will the Minister provide (a) statistics predicting the capacity of the current State High School in that catchment area to absorb increasing secondary student numbers in the next five years and (b) a timeline for a future High School located in Bargara?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education uses statistical data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to forecast student enrolment growth and plan for expansion of existing schools or delivery of new schools when and where needed to satisfy demand.

Based on QGSO and ABS data, for the Statistical Areas 2 (SA2s) along Burnett Heads to Elliott Heads (Bargara–Burnett Heads, Ashfield–Kepnock, and Bundaberg East–Kalkie areas), the number of state-attending secondary school-aged students is projected to grow from 1277 in 2021 to 1447 in 2041.

Burnett Heads to Elliott Heads is located within the Kepnock State High School catchment. Kepnock State High School has built capacity for 1841 students, with 1353 enrolments as at the 2023 February census. Since 2020, overall enrolments at the school have declined marginally from a high of 1447 as at February 2020. The QGSO has forecasted a modest decline in enrolments to continue over the next four years, to just over 1200 enrolments in 2027.

The resident student population in the Kepnock State High School catchment (the number of state-attending secondary school students) is projected to grow by fewer than 100 students over the next approximately 20 years—from 1421 in 2022 to 1519 in 2041.

Kepnock State High School has sufficient spare capacity to meet forecast enrolment demand in the short, medium and long-term in the Burnett Heads to Elliott Heads area.

The department has not identified the need for a new state high school in Bargara.

The department will continue to monitor the area, and will deliver additional infrastructure if required as a result of student growth.