

Question on Notice

No. 744

Asked on 13 June 2023

MR J MCDONALD ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what planning has occurred and when is a State secondary school planned to be built in Fernvale?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education conducts ongoing analysis to inform new schools planning through the Queensland Schools Planning Reference Committee. This work assesses population trends, proposed residential developments and school capacity to help guide future planning, and is underpinned by student population projections developed by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO).

To inform this process, the department also formally engages with a broad range of stakeholders, including local councils and state and non-state education organisations, to identify where and when investment should be targeted to meet student demand.

Population and enrolment growth in the Fernvale area has not increased sufficiently in the past few years to support the need for a new school at this time. Therefore, there currently is no commitment to open a new secondary school in the Fernvale area.

Fernvale is currently serviced by the Lowood State High School catchment area. Lowood State High School currently operates at an enrolment size of 749. The short-medium enrolment forecasts prepared by the QGSO indicate that Lowood State High School will continue to have capacity up to 2027. Over the longer term, the number of in-catchment students (resident student number) is projected to grow, at which point the department may require a review of the current position.