

Question on Notice

No. 830

Asked on 13 June 2024

DR A MACMAHON ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE (HON D FARMER)

QUESTION:

With reference to the fact that the government is finalising the Woolloongabba PDA Development Scheme, which includes no plans for new state schools, and leaves East Brisbane State School still at risk of closure—

Will the Minister advise, where the government intends the thousands of additional school-age children in the area to attend school?

ANSWER:

The Department of Education (DoE) continues to meet once a term with representatives of the East Brisbane State School's Parents and Citizens' (P&C) Association to keep them updated and work through any questions and concerns. I also continue to connect with the school community speaking with the P&C president, attending meetings and joining events such as the 125th Year Celebrations.

Following the Queensland Government's decision to not proceed with the Gabba rebuild for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, the East Brisbane State School community has been advised the school is no longer required to relocate at the end of the 2025 school year.

DoE is continuing to work with the Department of State Development and Infrastructure (DSDI) to understand what enhancements are planned for the Gabba and the potential impacts, if any, to the closely adjoining school.

It is not anticipated any advice will be received on the enhancements to the Gabba from DSDI until 2025. Any resulting decision in relation to diverting from the already Government approved solution for East Brisbane State School will require further Government consideration.

DoE's main priority remains supporting safe and effective learning environments for all students and staff. Any decisions regarding the future of East Brisbane State School will consider the likely impacts to the school from enhancements to the Gabba, the school's long-term needs and the needs of the surrounding network of local schools.

When considering the strategic establishment of new schools, careful consideration is given to factors such as the existing network's capacity, potential for expanding current schools, local student population growth and land availability.

In relation to the forecast population growth linked to the establishment of the Woolloongabba Priority Development Area (PDA), DoE is aware of the 2023 Queensland Government Statistician's Office School-age Population Projections for the East Brisbane, Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba areas indicate that the overall primary-age population may increase by approximately 230 students over the course of two decades, from 2021.

The additional primary-age population will fall within the catchments of East Brisbane State School, Buranda State School and Dutton Park State School. A project to increase the capacity of Buranda State School is currently underway and will further add to the educational infrastructure in the local network. These schools will have the capacity to meet this forecast enrolment increase.

DoE actively monitors school capacity and enrolment data, as well as projected enrolment growth and existing school network capacity to deliver optimal educational outcomes.

DoE will continue to work with DSDI to understand the final development mix for the Woolloongabba PDA and potential increase in school enrolments across the whole school network.