



Minister for Education and  
Minister for Industrial Relations

16 APR 2020

1 William Street Brisbane 4000  
PO Box 15033 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7110  
Email: [education@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:education@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
Email: [industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Email: [tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petitions 3289–20 and 3309–20 tabled on 17 March 2020 in the Legislative Assembly regarding the urgent need for Ferny Grove State High School to acquire ongoing access to a narrow strip of land located on the eastern fence line of Ferny Grove State High School on the site of the Keperra Picnic Grounds, to allow the school to complete infrastructure projects.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring all students, no matter where they live, have access to a range of high quality education facilities.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$235 million in the *Renewing Our Schools* (ROS) program to upgrade school infrastructure across the State. As part of the ROS program, Ferny Grove State High School is receiving \$12.1 million (including GST) to deliver a new multi-purpose sports and performing arts hall, as well as a refurbishment and extension of the administration building.

Following a competitive tender process in December 2019, a contract was awarded on 5 February 2020 to Bryant Building Contractors for the delivery of the ROS projects at Ferny Grove State High School. I am advised that Bryant Building Contractors previously approached Brisbane City Council (the Council) to seek access to the proposed construction site through the adjacent Council owned land, the Keperra Picnic Grounds.

I am advised that in-principle agreement was unable to be reached between Bryant Building Contractors and the Council, due to concerns relating to the area and the lack of access available for construction vehicles to enter around the existing trees in the park. I can advise that alternate access to the construction site has been arranged and agreed upon with the Principal, Ferny Grove State High School, and construction of these infrastructure projects for the school remains on track, with completion forecast for November 2020.

With regards to the installation of lighting on the school oval, I am informed the Arana Touch Football Association approached Ferny Grove State High School regarding the potential to install lighting on the school oval, to enable after hours use. I am advised that the school is working with the Arana Touch Football Association to explore the lighting proposal further prior to a decision being made. Community consultation has been completed, and Arana Touch Football Association is considering the feedback received. Officers from the Department of Education are working with the school to undertake an initial investigation into the proposed project.

With regards to any potential additional car parking, I can advise that officers from the department's Infrastructure Services Branch met with the Council in early 2019, as owners of the land adjoining the school. The department discussed the potential to either lease or purchase this land for use as access to the school ovals and/or additional car parking. At that time, the Council was opposed to any lease or purchase of the land. The department will continue to engage with the Council to explore future opportunities to provide additional car parking. At this stage, there is no additional car parking under consideration.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**GRACE GRACE MP**  
**Minister for Education and**  
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