

PEMBERTON CAMP SCHOOL — CLOSURE

Petition

HON COLIN HOLT (South West) [1.10 pm]: I present a petition containing 261 signatures couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned are opposed to the closure of the Pemberton Camp School.

We therefore ask the Legislative Council to recommend to the Western Australian Parliament and the Department of Education that it oppose the decision to close the Pemberton Camp School for the following reasons.

The Pemberton Camp School has offered city, remote and rural students an opportunity to experience activities based on the philosophy outlined in the West Australian Curriculum, in a supportive environment focusing on the development of self-management, interpersonal, self-esteem, teamwork and leadership skills for decades. These camps have delivered valuable and healthy experiential learning through environmental and outdoor educational programs with a strong emphasis on values and the social development of our WA school students. These programs cannot be delivered in a classroom situation.

Pemberton has already been heavily impacted by the closure of the timber mill and with the imminent closure of Pemberton Camp School will result in the loss of several jobs including an annual traineeship as well as a big impact on the tourism industry and local businesses who supply goods and services supporting the school students staying at Pemberton Camp School.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper 1338.]