



SHIRE OF MUKINBUDIN

PUBLIC

Submission 42

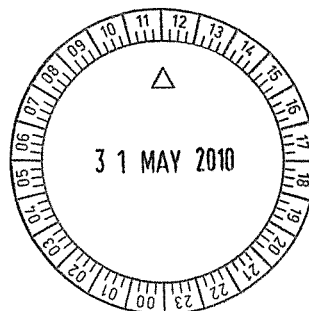
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Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Enquiries: Trevor Smith

27th May 2010

Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Sir,

**Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations:
Inquiry into the Removal of Year 11 and 12 courses at District High Schools**

Point of Contact: Trevor Smith
Chief Executive Officer
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The Shire of Mukinbudin wishes to make a submission addressing the following:

- a) *The decision making process and rationale behind the decision;*
It appears that there was no community consultation involved in the decision making process which the Shire of Mukinbudin strongly objects to. The first the Community of Mukinbudin knew about the proposal was through a media report. We are aware that District High Schools were designed before years 11 and 12 were made compulsory; however these District High Schools have provided a very real alternative to students from low socio-economic backgrounds whose parents can not afford to send their children to boarding school.
- b) *The effect of the decision on the State budget, the affected students and communities;*
It appears the cost savings to the State budget will be minimal, as the infrastructure is already available at District High Schools to cater for these students. Year 11 & 12 was available via SIDE at Mukinbudin District High School with supervising teachers. This is the only option for some students and parents, and this option needs to be protected from State Government cut-backs at all costs.

The effects on the students and community include:

- Depriving country students of the same opportunities as metropolitan students. There needs to be equity for these students and they deserve the right to an education that their parents can afford.
- This will further impact on the education of indigenous students in our community.
- Dislocation of families.
- Families are leaving the community as they cannot afford to send their children away to complete year 11 & 12.
- State Government cut backs and non-funding erodes Parental confidence in High School Education. Due to this announcement families of primary aged students are leaving the community so they are prepared for high school education.
- Impact of a declining population because families are leaving rural communities is enormous. This is impacting the social fabric of the community and also having a large economic burden on rural communities.

c) *The adequacy, cost effectiveness and social impact of the educational alternatives proposed;*

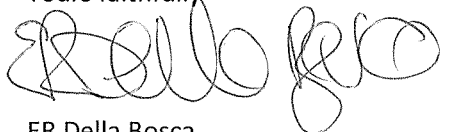
This proposal will have enormous ramifications and will cost our community financially and socially

- Some low socio-economic families will not be able to afford to send their children away. These students still need to be catered for as year 11 & 12 is now compulsory so there will still be a cost to the state government and the parents as they will need to be in a participation group.
- Possibility of social unrest as these students who become disengaged from school will remain in town and become bored.
- If families leave the district this will cost the businesses as there will be less trade, services and businesses will decline due to a declining population.
- It will have a social impact as there will be less people participating in sport and community functions. Volunteers will decrease so social events and committees will suffer or cease to exist.
- Once youth leave a country town to further their education they rarely return depleting the pool of future employees for existing businesses.
- Businesses will find it hard to attract future staff to live in rural areas when there are depleted services and no high school available.
- The erosion of the high school will flow on to other vital government services such as health, police and local authorities threatening the very existence of rural communities.
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d) *Any other relevant matter.*

We have documented the points that will affect the Mukinbudin Community. It must be noted that these same points will impact on surrounding communities as District High Schools often have students from adjoining towns enrolled in the school. These communities will be eroded as they lose the same rights as us therefore suffering from the same impacts as us. This will be an erosion of the Wheatbelt area where the 21 District High Schools are being reviewed.

Yours faithfully



ER Della Bosca
Acting Chief Executive Officer