



**Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
Member for East Metropolitan Region**

18 December 2018

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Via email: lcco@parliament.wa.gov.au


Dear Chair

Petition No. 092- Woodbridge Primary School

Thank you for your letter received on 21 November 2018 with respect to *Petition No. 092-Woodbridge Primary School*. Further petitions couched in similar terms were tabled in the House on Wednesday 5 December 2018.

The petition, which contained 508 signatures in total, reflects the community's concerns regarding the need for long-term planning by the Department of Education to address the significant enrolment growth at Woodbridge Primary School and opposes the use of any further demountable classrooms being placed on the school site. Specifically, the petition requests a realignment of the schools local intake area and the removal of the optional intake area, north of the railway line which includes Viveash.

With increasing residential development occurring in and around the local area, the community has raised with me their concerns surrounding the lack of long term planning by the Department to address this enrolment pressure. They are equally concerned with the potential removal of existing active play and recreational spaces to allow for the placement of additional demountable classrooms should they be placed on the primary school site in the future.

With both Woodbridge and Guildford Primary Schools currently at or nearing capacity, I understand the schools work together on a year by year basis to accommodate overflow students. However, the ability to expand to allow for future enrolment growth is limited due to the size of the school grounds and identified heritage restrictions at both schools.

A letter sent by Premier Mark McGowan to the School Board Chairperson, Ms Danielle McAuliffe in April this year stated that the Department of Education had identified available space within the primary school site to allow for an additional nine demountable classrooms should they be required.

During a visit to the school earlier this year it was certainly apparent that the inclusion of any additional demountable classrooms would significantly reduce the amount of active play space for students, on what is already a smaller than average school site at just 2.4 hectares in total.

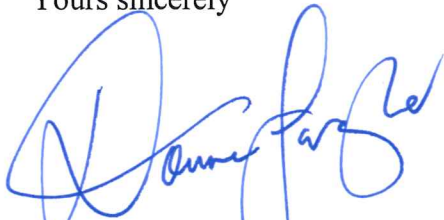
Given this limitation and taking into account the importance of play-based learning in schools which is increasingly being publicised and promoted, I believe it is important for the Department to develop a long-term strategy to account for the increasing growth whilst identifying possible solutions other than the use of demountable classrooms.

The petition has also requested the Department consider re-opening the former Midland Primary School site to further accommodate this increasing enrolment growth.

I request that the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs look into the matters raised through the petition. Should the Committee have the opportunity to do so, I believe a visit to the school would also be beneficial.

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to make a submission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely



HON DONNA FARAGHER JP MLC

Member for East Metropolitan Region

Shadow Minister for Education and Training; Women's Interests