



Hon Sue Ellery MLC
Minister for Education and Training
Leader of the Legislative Council

Your Ref: Petition No 092
Our Ref: 61-15102

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au


Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2019 regarding Petition No. 092 – Woodbridge Primary School.

The Department of Education is closely monitoring population growth in the Midland-Guildford area, including the developments at Rosehill Estate and Woodbridge on Green. I have been advised that a range of options and strategies have been developed to ensure there is sufficient space at schools, like Woodbridge Primary School, to accommodate anticipated long-term growth. These include ensuring schools only enrol students from within their local-intake areas, adjusting existing local-intake areas and providing transportable classrooms.

The Department's use of transportable classrooms to alleviate enrolment pressure is a longstanding strategy. Transportable buildings provide the flexibility to cater for changes in enrolment demands. The Department has identified a further eight available spaces where transportable buildings could be placed at Woodbridge Primary School.

I am advised that following the provision of a transportable classroom in 2018, Woodbridge Primary School has accommodation capacity for 494 students. Based on the current projected enrolments, this will be sufficient accommodation for the school for at least the next five years.

The Department is aware of the local initiative between Guildford Primary School and Woodbridge Primary School whereby Woodbridge Primary School enrolls overflow students from the Guildford Primary School local-intake area. This arrangement is endorsed by the Department and these students are considered as local enrolments; that is, as if they live within Woodbridge Primary School's local-intake area. In addition to the students enrolled via this arrangement, Woodbridge Primary School has a large number of students enrolled from outside its local-intake area. As at Semester 2, 2018, the school had 98 students (24.3% of the total) enrolled from outside its local-intake area.

Woodbridge Primary School can delay the future need for transportable buildings and, therefore, maximise the available play space at the school by managing enrolments from outside the local-intake area, other than overflow students enrolled from Guildford Primary School. Enrolment projections and analysis of the Semester 2, 2018 enrolments at Woodbridge Primary School are attached.

The Midland Primary School site has been retained by the Department and could be reopened in the event that future growth in the area cannot be accommodated in existing primary schools. At this time, the current number of students residing in the Midland area is insufficient to warrant the reopening of Midland Primary School. The Midland Learning Academy, which caters for highly disengaged students, will continue to operate from this site.

I am advised that the Department is investigating the option of realigning the local-intake area boundaries in the Midland-Guildford area. Principals of affected schools will be contacted shortly as part of the consultation process to amend local-intake areas.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely


SUE ELLERY MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

✓Att.

ATTACHMENT

WOODBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT DATA

Woodbridge Primary School projected enrolments									
Year	K	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2019	50	50	50	48	62	48	59	47	414
2020	52	52	52	52	50	64	50	60	432
2021	53	53	53	53	53	51	65	51	432
2022	55	55	55	55	55	55	53	66	449
2023	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	54	446
2024	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	456
2025	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	464
2026	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	472
2027	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	480

Woodbridge Primary School enrolment analysis as at Semester 2, 2018									
Local-intake area status	K	P	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Inside local-intake area	28	28	23	27	22	27	17	14	186
Inside Guildford Primary School's local-intake area	11	9	14	14	7	11	8	4	78
Previously within local-intake area	0	1	4	5	6	8	9	9	42
Outside local-intake area	12	12	9	15	12	11	15	12	98
Total	51	50	50	61	47	57	49	39	404
Inside local-intake area %	54.9	56.0	46.0	44.3	46.8	47.4	34.7	35.9	46.0
Inside Guildford Primary School's local-intake area %	21.6	18.0	28.0	23.0	14.9	19.3	16.3	10.3	19.3
Previously within local-intake area %	0.0	2.0	8.0	8.2	12.8	14.0	18.4	23.1	10.4
Outside local-intake area %	23.5	24.0	18.0	24.6	25.5	19.3	30.6	30.8	24.3