



Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
Member for East Metropolitan Region

5 July 2017

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Via Email: council@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your letter dated 15 June 2017 regarding Petition No. 005 recently tabled in the Legislative Council.

The petition, tabled on 24 May 2017 and again on 13 June 2017, contained more than 8,400 signatures and raised significant concerns regarding the State Government's 'Education Central' policy, particularly as it related to the proposed re-location of the academic select school currently at Perth Modern School to a high-rise inner city school in Northbridge.

Since the tabling of the petition, I am very pleased that the Government has reversed this flawed policy which was made without consultation or consideration of the people who would be most affected. You will note that this formed a significant part of the petitioners' concerns.

It should be noted, however, that as part of the petition, the petitioners also request the following:

- A comprehensive and transparent consultation process is undertaken with all stakeholders to develop:
 - Evidence-based strategies for secondary school planning, including meeting the demand in the Western suburbs;
 - Principles to ensure student equity around health and well-being, including on-site outdoor ground-level spaces for sport and recreation

As you would be aware, concern remains regarding the Government's decision to now build a new school at Kitchener Park and whether this appropriately addresses the significant growth in demand for places at secondary schools in the Western Suburbs.

Last year, significant changes to secondary schooling, formulated through the Department of Education, were announced to resolve the pressure in the western suburbs and surrounding areas. This comprehensive strategy included expansion projects to increase capacity at Shenton College, Churchlands Senior High School, Carine Senior High School, Balcatta Senior High School and Mt Lawley Senior High School as well as a commitment to build a new secondary school in City Beach.

I therefore request that the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs consider this particular aspect of the petition. The matters relating to student health and well-being, including on-site outdoor ground-level spaces for sport and recreation, is also worthy of further consideration.

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