



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

Your Ref: A653595 (Petition No 29)
Our Ref: 61-05133

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

Email: env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Swinbourn

Thank you for your letter dated 30 November 2017 regarding Petition No 29 – Funding for Moora Residential College.

As noted in your correspondence, Moora Residential College was built in 1973 and is approaching its design life of 50 years. As a result of this, the College no longer complies with modern design standards. As part of planning for the upgrade of the College by the previous Government, the following structural and services consultants were engaged to provide initial advice:

- structural engineer;
- hydraulic engineer;
- electrical engineer; and
- Building Code of Australia/Building inspector site assessor.

Specific risk and non-compliance issues identified in the reports include:

- fire detection systems are faulty and do not meet current standards;
- fire hydrants are non-compliant;
- lack of fire walls in the building; and
- multiple structural and electrical issues.

Major refurbishment and upgrades, including addressing the non-compliance issues, were costed at \$8.701 million.

Moora Residential College has seen a reduction in enrolments since 2012, as shown in the table below.

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
40	30	28	34	35	32	29

These low enrolment numbers and urgent need for maintenance on the buildings has led to the decision to close the College from 2019. Students will be able to board at other residential colleges in Northam, Narrogin, Merredin or Geraldton and attend senior high schools in those towns.

Families whose homes are to the south of Moora, in locations such as Ledge Point or Lancelin, may wish to enrol their children at the new Yanchep Secondary College, which will open in 2018. I understand that Yanchep Secondary College has had a number of enrolment enquiries for 2018 from families in the Lancelin area whose children might normally board at Moora for secondary schooling.

It is my intention to work with Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development, and the families of the students who board at Moora Residential College to identify alternative options to enable the students to continue their education at Central Midlands Senior High School.

Thank you for seeking my comments.

Yours sincerely



SUE ELLERY MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

18 JAN 2010