

## MINISTERIAL BACKBENCH LIAISON RESPONSE – Nyanda State High School – ASHGROVE EO

- The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education, Training and Employment, has announced nine Queensland state schools, including Nyanda State High School, have been identified for proposed closure or amalgamation as part of the Department's 2013 *School Viability Assessment*.
- These schools were identified in line with the criteria set out in the *School Viability Assessment* procedure – enrolments, accessibility, curriculum and resourcing equity.
- The Department's analysis focussed particularly on historical enrolment trends and forecasts, as well as the school's proximity to alternative state schools.
- There is one alternative state high school within 5km of Nyanda State High School and four within 7km. These are Yeronga State High School, Corinda State High School, Holland Park State High School, MacGregor State High School and Sunnybank State High School respectively.
- In the case of Nyanda State High School, enrolments have been relatively low over the past five years, with a downward trend:
  - 2009 – 408 students;
  - 2010 – 373 students;
  - 2011 – 350 students;
  - 2012 – 299 students;
  - 2013 – 297 students (Day 8 enrolments).
- Year 8 enrolments for 2013 were 53.
- Enrolments are predicted to remain at these relatively low levels.
- It is important to understand that no decisions have yet been made about the proposed school closures/amalgamation and community consultation is still underway in each school community.
- When a school is proposed to close or amalgamate, consultation occurs to ensure the school community has an opportunity to have their say about the future education options for the school community.
- The Department recognises that each school is unique and that an analysis conducted centrally may not provide the full picture of a school and its community.
- This is why the community consultation period is pivotal to the final Ministerial decision-making process around school closures or amalgamations.
- Community consultation allows for a process to identify any additional local circumstances that should be considered as part of the final determination by the Minister.
- In 2013, the Department has engaged an independent consultant to lead and manage the community consultation process. The consultant is engaging with each school community to investigate the impacts a school closure or amalgamation may have on students, parents and the broader community.
- A public notice announcing the proposed closure of Nyanda State High School and the commencement of the community consultation period was published in the Queensland Government Gazette on 3 May 2013.

- Members of each school community, where closure or amalgamation is proposed, have been invited to participate in the consultation process through their school.
- In the case of Nyanda State High School, written submissions can be made to [nyandashs@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:nyandashs@det.qld.gov.au) or [submissions@jtaa.det.qld.gov.au](mailto:submissions@jtaa.det.qld.gov.au), before 9 August 2013.
- A series of meetings have been arranged with students, parents, staff and the broader Nyanda State High School community including two full community meetings on 20 and 28 May 2013.
- Once the consultation process is complete, Minister Langbroek will consider the consultant's findings and inform the school community of his decision regarding the future of Nyanda State High School.
- Should a decision be made to close a school, the Department would implement strategies to assist and ensure all students are able to smoothly transition to their new schools. Any closure of a secondary school would take place over an extended period, allowing senior students to complete their studies without the disruption of changing schools.
- If, at the end of 2013, student enrolments were anticipated to be very low for the following year, the Minister may make a determination to close the school from the beginning of 2014. If this was the case, extensive guidance officer support would be provided for Year 12 students at their new school.
- Likewise, should a school be approved for closure, all permanent staff would be transitioned to alternative school locations, with support from Human Resources staff.
- Although the *School Viability Assessment* procedure is new in 2013, the premise behind the procedure is not. The Department has a long-standing practice of assessing the viability of its state schools, because it has a responsibility to ensure these important community assets are operated efficiently and appropriately utilised.
- The *School Viability Assessment* procedure will assist in delivering an effective and efficient public education system that is sustainable now and in the future.
- The Department uses a long-term planning strategy to closely monitor population trends and demographics to ensure the State builds and operates schools where they are needed the most and where they provide the best possible educational opportunities for students.

**Contact Officer:**

Joe Willis  
 Director, Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)  
 Infrastructure Strategy, Research and Performance  
 x71092

**Approved by:**

Jeff Hunt  
 A/DDG Corporate Services  
 x 56329



## **SCHOOLS – amalgamations and closures**

### **RESPONSE**

- Labor closed on average 7 schools per year for their 20 years in power with Goss, Beattie and Bligh closing 139 facilities between them.
- Six primary schools and two secondary schools have been identified for proposed closure.
- Decisions are never made lightly and Government has a responsibility to ensure the public education system is sustainable with world class facilities.
- Proposed Brisbane State High School and Coorparoo Secondary College amalgamation not proceeding. Extensive consultation revealed successful merger unlikely - it requires two willing parties.
- This clearly demonstrates that the Government is listening and any proposal from a community to keep their school open will be considered on a case by case basis.
- **Written submissions have been received and information from extensive stakeholder meetings is being compiled into reports for me to consider. Every endeavour is being made to ensure that every issue raised in either written reports or community meetings is being considered before a decision is made.**
- No decisions have been made regarding these schools. Decision is expected to be made in the near future.
- Closures are not about making money. Any funds will be reinvested to improve school infrastructure.

## **OTHER INFORMATION/CONTEXT**

- In early 2013, the Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) operated 1,240 state schools with an overall utilisation rate of 77 percent.
- A *School Viability Assessment* identified nine schools for proposed closure based on criteria including enrolments, curriculum, accessibility and resourcing equity.
- Proposed closure of six primary and two secondary schools: Charlton State School; Fortitude Valley State School; Old Yarranlea State School; Stuart State School; Toowoomba South State School; Wyreema State School; Everton Park State High School; Nyanda State High School. CSC and BSHS were considered for proposed amalgamation.

School	Enrolment (Day 8, 2013)	Capacity	Utilisation	5 year average enrolment	Resident Student Number (RSN)	RSN attending %
Charlton State School	32	70	45%	36.4	37	41%
Everton Park State High School	230	1084	21%	257.8	736	15%
Fortitude Valley State School	56	91	61%	39	48	38%
Nyanda State High School	297	696	43%	345.4	834	21%
Old Yarranlea State School	18	24	75%	18	N/A	N/A
Stuart State School	88	356	25%	75.4	255	26%
Toowoomba South State School	70	311	23%	76	378	10%
Wyreema State School	40	96	42%	32.2	161	20%

- DETE engaged external consultants, JTA Australia, to ensure the consultation process was independent, open and transparent. Consultation for amalgamation closed on 10 June 2013. Consultation for the remaining schools closed 26 July 2013.
- On 19 July 2013, the Honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education, Training and Employment announced that amalgamation would not go ahead for various reasons including a lack of support for the merger and concerns about the size of the entity.
- Government will work with Coorparoo Secondary College leadership team on a new solution that gives the college a strong, positive identity.
- Over \$35 million provided to increase capacity at Brisbane State High School and accommodate the move of Year 7 into high school.
- A decision on the remaining schools is expected in the near future. If possible, the announcement about remaining school closures will be made earlier to provide communities with certainty.



## Fiona Crawford

---

**From:** WATTERSTON, Jim <Jim.WATTERSTON@dete.qld.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 1:32 PM  
**To:** Fiona Crawford; Tim Rawlings  
**Subject:** FW: Question about the SVA criteria  
**Attachments:** School Viability Assessment v1.0.pdf

Have a look at the shaded bit on the attachment and the email trail if you get time.

Regards

**Jim Watterston | Director-General**

Department of Education, Training and Employment  
**Queensland Government**  
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PO Box 15033 | City East Qld 4002

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**From:** RIDER, Chris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 12:44 PM  
**To:** CALLUM, Lee  
**Cc:** SEILER, Robert; WATTERSTON, Jim  
**Subject:** FW: Question about the SVA criteria

Lee

Please provide a response.

Chris

---

**From:** Fiona Mckenna [<mailto:fmcke7@eq.edu.au>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 11:42 AM  
**To:** RIDER, Chris; [communication.office@dete.qld.gov.au](mailto:communication.office@dete.qld.gov.au)  
**Subject:** FW: Question about the SVA criteria

Dear Dr Watterston and Mr Ryder,

My P&C President has been to see me this morning to follow up the question she has raised in the email below. I raised this question with you both yesterday but you were unable to give me a reply. I advised my P&C President that I had raised this with you both yesterday and told her this morning that I would send you her question directly. I have advised her to follow up with you herself, as I do not understand why this information we were given and which we shared with our school community no longer seems accurate.

Fiona Mckenna  
Principal  
Nyanda State High School  
07 3712 1222



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**From:** Refused under section 47(3)(b) of the RTI Act  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2013 8:24 PM  
**To:** Paul Kingston; [fmcke7@eq.edu.au](mailto:fmcke7@eq.edu.au)  
**Subject:** Question about the SVA criteria

Dear Fiona and Paul

This excerpt is taken from page 3 of the SVA v 1.0.

**STAGE 4: TRANSITIONAL PLANNING – Term 4**

*Schools approved for closure will officially close at the end of the school year. During Term 4, DETE will work with students, families and staff to transition to new schools/education providers for the start of the following year.*

***Please note: Any closure of a secondary school under the School Viability Assessment procedure***

***will take place over an extended period – i.e. up to two years. This will minimise disruption to***

***senior students in their final years of schooling.***

As we are the only secondary school for closure shouldn't this apply to our school?

Would it be worthwhile me writing to someone about this ?

Best regards

Mary-Anne

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## School Viability Assessment

### Version Number

1.0

### Implementation Date

3/05/2013

### Scope

Department-wide

### Purpose

This procedure details the Department of Education, Training and Employment's (DETE's) annual process for assessing the viability of Queensland state schools. It establishes the circumstances under which a school's viability will be reviewed and the consultation process that will occur with the community.

The procedure outlines the process undertaken to close a school, should it be considered to not meet viability criteria.

### Overview

Queensland needs an effective and efficient state education system that is sustainable now and in the future. As such, DETE will conduct an annual review to assess the viability of Queensland state schools, using the approved viability criteria (refer to Process section). Schools assessed as not meeting the criteria will be referred to the Minister for consideration to close. Under the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006* (the Act), the Minister is required to advertise all proposed school closures in the Government Gazette at least six months before any official closure. Consultation must occur with the community during the intervening period.

### Responsibilities

#### Infrastructure Strategy, Research and Performance Unit (ISRP)

- Conduct an annual review to identify and assess the viability of Queensland state schools, using the viability criteria (refer to the Process section)
- Liaise with Regional Directors regarding the School Viability Assessment
- Seek Ministerial approval to advertise the proposed school closures in the Government Gazette, in line with the Act, and for consultation to occur with the relevant communities
- Report outcomes of community consultation and provide recommendations to the Minister

#### Director-General, DETE

- Support the community consultation process
- Consider/endorse the recommendations for school closures prior to Ministerial approval
- Consider the schools which have been identified in the viability assessment process for proposed closure
- If supportive, approve proposed school closures to be advertised in the Government



- Gazette, in line with the Act, and approve for consultation to occur with the community
- Write to members of the school community (i.e. principal, P&C president, school council, local Member of Parliament, and the Mayor/Council CEO in regional areas) to inform them that their school has been identified for proposed closure
- Consider the outcomes from the community consultations and determine whether a school should be permanently closed

### **Regional Directors**

- Liaise with ISRP regarding the School Viability Assessment procedure
- Lead the community consultation, on behalf of the Minister (N.B. Consultation is a requirement under the Act. As no two school communities are the same, the consultation method/s for each school will be determined at the Regional level on a case-by-case basis. However, consultation may include activities such as: community meetings, calls for written submissions, newsletter articles, advertisements in local newspapers/community bulletins, and/or community service announcements with local broadcast media)
- Report outcomes of community consultation to ISRP
- Once a Ministerial decision has been made to close a school, assist the Principal with the transition of students to other schools/education providers.

### **Principals**

- Assist the RD to facilitate the consultation process
- If school is approved by the Minister for closure, employ strategies to ensure students and staff transition smoothly to their new school
- Relocate/transfer/dispose of school records in line with the DETE School Closure Checklist.

### **Process**

The School Viability Assessment procedure will be implemented in four stages:

#### **STAGE 1: ANNUAL REVIEW – Term 1**

DETE will conduct the annual School Viability Assessment. This review involves an analysis of all state schools using the approved viability criteria.

#### **I. Enrolments:**

- Enrolment history (especially past five years) and forecasts for the next five years
- Number of students attending the school who do not live in the school catchment area

#### **II. Accessibility:**

- Distances and travel times to and from school
- Access to nearby schools or alternative education programs
- Transport options and arrangements for the school and neighbouring schools (road networks, bus routes, train routes)

#### **III. Curriculum:**

- Extent of the school's curriculum and its ability to access suitable educational resources

#### **IV. Resourcing equity:**

- Cost per student per annum and comparison with state schools
- Numbers, types and conditions of buildings

#### **STAGE 2: INFORM COMMUNITY AND GAZETTAL – Term 2**

Minister approves which schools will be proposed for closure in the current school year and approves for the relevant schools to undergo community consultation. The Minister also informs

the relevant school communities, in writing, that they have been identified for proposed closure and will undergo consultation. DETE will place a public notice in the Government Gazette to inform the broader community about the proposed closures and the commencement of the consultation period.

### **STAGE 3: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – Term 3**

Consultation occurs with school communities. Regional Directors will compile a report outlining the outcomes of the community consultation for each school proposed for closure. The Minister will consider the results of the consultation and make decisions on whether a school should be closed permanently, or remain open. Schools approved for closure will be informed by the end of Term 3.

### **STAGE 4: TRANSITIONAL PLANNING – Term 4**

Schools approved for closure will officially close at the end of the school year. During Term 4, DETE will work with students, families and staff to transition to new schools/education providers for the start of the following year.

Please note: Any closure of a secondary school under the School Viability Assessment procedure will take place over an extended period – i.e. up to two years. This will minimise disruption to senior students in their final years of schooling.

### **Further information**

If two or more schools are identified as candidates for amalgamation, as part of the School Viability Assessment process, the actions outlined in the four-stage process above will apply.

In the case of schools that 'self-close' part way through a school year – i.e. enrolments drop to an unviable level with very low student numbers or no students – the Regional Director must promptly notify ISRP in order to activate the School Viability Assessment procedure. The actions detailed from "Stage 2" in the Process above will be followed, however the timings will be adjusted according to each individual situation.

## **Online Resources**

### **Supporting documents**

- DETE School Closure Checklist

## **Review Date**

3/05/2015



## **Definitions**

### **Community**

For a school proposed to be closed means—

- a) the school community; and
- b) if there is a school council for the school – the school council; and
- c) if there is a parents and citizens' association formed for the school – the association.

### **Viability**

The ability of a school to deliver and sustain a broad, meaningful and effective education program based on enrolment levels, curriculum offerings, accessibility and resourcing levels.

### **School Closure**

The permanent cessation of operations of a state school.



**Amalgamation**

The merging of two or more neighbouring schools.

**Authority**

- *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 Part 3*

**Related Policy Instruments**

Not applicable

**Attachments****Contact**

For further information, please contact:

Principal Policy Officer, Infrastructure Strategy (Schools)

Phone: (07) 3234 1531

**Uncontrolled Copy Disclaimer**

**Uncontrolled copy.** Refer to the Department of Education, Training and Employment Policy and Procedure Register at <http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au> to ensure you have the most current version of this document.

## Tim Rawlings

---

**From:** Fiona Crawford  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 1:35 PM  
**To:** WATTERSTON, Jim; Tim Rawlings  
**Subject:** RE: Question about the SVA criteria

Up to doesn't mean equals. And you'd think she'd spell Chris's surname right.



**Fiona Crawford**

Chief of Staff

Office of the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek MP | Minister for Education, Training and Employment

Phone: 07 32354489 | Email: [Fiona.crawford@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Fiona.crawford@ministerial.qld.gov.au) | Mobile: [REDACTED] (under section 47(3)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2009)

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PO Box 15033 | City East | Brisbane | QLD 4002

**Great State. Great Opportunity.**

**From:** WATTERSTON, Jim [<mailto:Jim.WATTERSTON@dete.qld.gov.au>]  
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Department of Education, Training and Employment

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**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2013 11:42 AM



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Nyanda State High School  
07 3712 1222



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Mary-Anne

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



4/10/13

Hi Larysa

Further to your meeting with Minister  
Langbroek on 24 September, please  
find attached the minutes from that  
discussion as requested.

Kind regards

Tina Johansen

**With compliments**



QUEENSLAND  
GOVERNMENT

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Minister for Education,  
Training and Employment**

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## MINUTES OF MEETING

<b>DATE</b>	Tuesday, 24 September 2013	
<b>TIME</b>	4.15pm – 5.00pm	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Proposed Closure of Nyanda State High School	
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>Hon. John-Paul Langbroek (JPL)</b>	Minister for Education, Training & Employment
	<b>Fiona Crawford (FC)</b>	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Education, Training & Employment
	<b>Danita Goodwin</b>	Senior Media Advisor, Office of the Minister for Education, Training & Employment
	<b>Sophie Finemore</b>	Policy Advisor, Office of the Hon. Campbell Newman MP, Premier of Queensland
	<b>Larysa Jaworski (LJ)</b>	Co-Chair of the Nyanda Action Group
	<b>Felix Gibson (FG)</b>	School Captain, Nyanda State High School

WHO	COMMENTS
<i>Note</i>	<i>Prior the meeting, Ms Jaworski and Mr Gibson confirmed they were not taping the meeting. Ms Jaworski also confirmed she was not recording the meeting using a pulse pen.</i>
LJ	We appreciate you seeing us. But we are unhappy that you didn't come to the school to talk to parents.
FG	The year 11 cohort has real concerns about the school closing. In 10 weeks they will have to move to another school. The subject they want may not be available at the other school.
JPL	we will make sure any/all subjects will be provided at whatever school they chose to go to. We will ensure the arrangements are in place. We are doing what we believe to be in the best interest of the cohort. I understand it is difficult especially given the assurances that were given.
LJ	We don't believe the enrolment figures showing the decline are truly reflective. We have a 25% itinerant student population with kids moving in and out. But the school was told not to enrol any new students. When you were at the Coorparoo Secondary College you said that any year 11 would have a two year transition so they could complete year 12. You said that any high school closure would have a 2 year transition.
JPL	Let's look at the decision affecting this cohort. I am not going to change this decision.
FG	Why aren't you following the department guidelines/policy with Nyanda?
JPL	They are the guidelines of the department.
LJ	You only signed off on this policy this year.
JPL	Ultimately it is my decision and I decided to close the school this year. I believe it is in the best interest of these students to transition to another school.
FG	The kids want to stay at Nyanda. The students want another year. Why can't we keep it open for another year?
JPL	That would just be a death of 1000 cuts.
FG	The year 11s have only ten weeks. They were promised by the department and you that they could have another year. They would really appreciate another year.
JPL	I didn't make that promise. And I'm sorry they can't have what they want.
LJ	Let's take a different tack. What can we do to keep Nyanda open? What did Everton Park State high school do – why were they given a deal?
JPL	They weren't.
FG	We can prove our school will be viable in 4 years.



## MINUTES OF MEETING (cont'd)

WHO	COMMENTS
LJ	There are enough students in the suburbs to have the school at capacity in five years.
JPL	That's at odds with the information received by the Schools Planning commission which includes data from councils etc.
LJ	Let's compare it to EPSHS
FG	They were prepared to give up some land. We will too. We have two ovals you can have. We were told by Chris Rider that would not be considered in a submission. We asked him directly. We have a huge campus. We could combine with Salisbury State School, which is in a part of the suburb that could be better used for development. We could be a P12 merging with Salisbury and Rocklea. They are both growth areas in a growth node. We have viable solutions to keep the school open.
JPL	The schools planning commission maps show that growth is not enough. Although we haven't done the final mapping for Brisbane south, it will not be enough.
LJ	If you haven't done the maps, wouldn't it make sense to wait?
JPL	We have enough information to know that it won't be a high growth area. If it was, we would be keeping it.
FG	Why wouldn't you keep the school until it's needed? And use the land for a P12.
JPL	Nyanda continues to have decreasing enrolments. DETE worked with the principal in increase student numbers but it didn't work. Therefore we used the criteria I've already talked about to find schools which weren't viable because we do have to build new schools. We have to fund expansion in areas of high growth.
LJ	The reason enrolments have been going down is because of repeated courier Mail articles saying the school is closing. Of course that means enrolments would decrease.
JPL	The previous government allowed the cloud to continue hanging over Nyanda.
LJ	The point is the school has been kyboshed by the media and other schools, saying Nyanda is dying. Places like Yeronga and Holland Park told prospective parents not to bother with enrolling their children in Nyanda.
FG	The school has not had a fair run for a while.
LJ	We have been asking for help to stop other schools saying its closing, and therefore pushing kids into other schools. Nyanda is a phenomenal school. You should have come and seen it.
JPL	I was unable to go to a number of other schools.
LJ	If you close Nyanda you will need another school there within 10 years.
JPL	The Schools Planning Commission includes information from DETE mapping, councils, community plans, census data etc. It all goes towards predicting where we will need new schools. And we are building 11 new schools.
LJ	Nyanda is a good transport hub. If they have to move to Acacia Ridge, they will have to do two trips. And parents are being told by other schools that they are full. Corinda has said they are full. Corinda's special ed unit has 100 kids. It is too big. The Sunnybank special ed has real issues. A [redacted] student at [redacted] was choked. And tried to take her life 5 weeks ago. We have 4 to 5 children on suicide watch because of all this uncertainty at Nyanda.
JPL	I am very concerned to hear that. We are determined that we will have comprehensive transition plans for everyone to support them through this move.
LJ	We have indigenous students with an indigenous support officer.
JPL	If it needs to be considered we will move them to the new schools. I want these children to be reassured that what they had equals what they have.
LJ	You are on record in Hansard as saying small schools are better schools. You said small schools are better schools. Parents say their kids won't be able to survive at a big school.
JPL	We will support them through the transition.
LJ	We have 12% indigenous enrolment. If they go to different school how will the indigenous support officers be able to help them?



## MINUTES OF MEETING (cont'd)

WHO	COMMENTS
JPL	We will make sure they get the support they need.
FG	What about the promise to Grade 11. We will lose them. They won't bother to finish year 12. They will just go to TAFE. Ditto for the Year 10 cohort. They are so disaffected; they won't reenrol for year 11.
JPL	We are not going to change this decision. I am investigating the departmental advice that the consultant was repeating. We want to work with these teenagers. Let's work together to do it. I know you're frustrated. But we need to work together to turn this around. That includes you as a student leader, teachers and parents.
FG	Why were they made those promises by Chis Rider and Jan.
JPL	I have said I'm investigating that. I considered all the criteria. I looked at this with a new DG and decided that this is in the best interest of the school to have finality with my decision.
LJ	Surely this will increase the cost per student.
FG	All we want is for you to honour that promise.
JPL	I am not changing my decision. I want to work with you to plan this transition for 2014. I want the kids to look back and say that this move was not the life changing event they think it is now. It was a difficult time with the decision during a federal election campaign. We have a term to help them work out their lives ahead. The Government and you need to work with them.
FG	They feel like they've been promised something.
LJ	Because of that promise, they haven't thought about where they're going. They didn't look at other schools. What happens with subject like biology where the final assessment is summative? How will that work with a new school? What if what they've been taught is different?
JPL	We will work to minimise the impact of that. The QSA can consider special circumstances like the move of a school. You can make a case that you have been disadvantaged through the Core Skills or QSA related assessment.
LJ	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Refused under section 47(3)(b) of the RTI Act</div> What about the school hall? Most of the funding for that came from the community. There are graves and memorials for kids and past students. There are real issues about what to do with the plaques etc.
JPL	We will work to make sure those things are looked after. The money from the P and C bank accounts will follow the kids proportionately. The honour boards and plaques will be moved to the most appropriate place.
LJ	I'm not sure if you know about the Nyanda art collection. It includes Namatjira and Boyd's. Could be worth up to \$1 million. We want it donated to the art gallery as the Nyanda Collection.
JPL	That won't be a problem. We will clarify the actual ownership of the art works.
LJ	They belong to the P&C.
JPL	We will transfer it and make sure they are available to the public. I'm sure the art gallery won't say no.
LJ	There are preservation orders on trees. They are under a native vegetation order.
JPL	That will be considered by the Government Land and Asset management Unit.
LJ	So there's no way if we give you land and just have the buildings, we could keep the school? We asked Chris rider about that sort of submission and he said don't even consider that, it won't be looked at. Therefore that's why we only made a submission around a p-12 campus.
FG	That's just one of several things that we were told, when in fact it is the complete opposite. Will you reconsider?
JPL	No.
LJ	Nyanda only have 56% doing an OP. At Corinda it's 99% doing OP. So it's a very different school. Nyanda offers TAFE and traineeships. At Corinda it's 100% OP – academic.



## MINUTES OF MEETING (cont'd)

WHO	COMMENTS
JPL	We will make sure that any students with a desire to do SAT, school based traineeships will be catered it.
LJ	Surely bringing in TAFE course infrastructure will make it more expensive. The average weekly wage in Acadia Ridge is \$400. Kids can't afford more expensive options. Not having a TAFE component is short-sighted. This is the sort of school they need.
JPL	We will work with you to transition and make sure they have those options.
LJ	Why can't we carve it up now? Nyanda community wants us to look at doing this. Then we can tell the media how we presented you with new information and cover the media angle there.
JPL	I am trying to do this with your support. I'm happy to meet with you but I stand by my original decision. We need to work on transition.
FG	The community will be stressed when they come back after the holiday.
JPL	It's a hard decision. I know we are dealing with emotional teenagers. I admit that it could have been done better. But this is not productive. Felix as a school leader, we need to work together to send a positive message to the students. You should be encouraging them to come back, make the best of it, and say, "This is the spirit of Nyanda."
LJ	We want to say we've negotiated for it to stay open for another year. Isn't that reasonable? Why can't we say we've negotiated another year?
JPL	I stand by my decisions. We will ensure that all the issues like transport, indigenous support, special ed support are provided. There will be more guidance officer time, more chaplain support.
Note	Meeting concluded at 5.00pm.

## Danita Goodwin

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**From:** Danita Goodwin  
**Sent:** Saturday, 21 September 2013 6:50 AM  
**To:** Jim Watterston  
**Cc:** Jeff HUNT  
**Subject:** John-Paul Langbroek stands firm on Nyanda State High closure despite audio evidence of assurances

### **EDUCATION Minister John-Paul Langbroek has dug in his heels on the closure date of Nyanda State High school despite tapes revealing students were assured it would stay open until the end of 2014.**

Six government schools were told this week they would be closing at the end of this year: Fortitude Valley (Brisbane), Old Yarranlea (Mt Gravatt), Charlton (near Toowoomba), Toowoomba South and Stuart (Townsville) state schools, along with Nyanda (Salisbury).

#### Axe to fall on six schools, two spared

#### Schools plan class action on closures

The Nyanda community expressed shock over the decision after being told in consultation meetings the school would be kept open until at least next year to allow current Year 11 students to finish senior.

Yesterday, Mr Langbroek came under fire for the second time this week over Nyanda's closure date.

He first drew fire after it was revealed his own department's policy stated any secondary school closure would "take place over an extended period - i.e. up to two years".

"This will minimise disruption to senior students in their final years of schooling," the policy states.

Last night tapes revealed on the ABC's *7.30 Qld*, also supplied to *The Courier-Mail*, backed statements made by students and parents that the school community had been told it would stay open next year.

A consultant hired by the State Government, Jan Taylor, told a meeting: "At this moment, nothing is set in concrete, there is no absolute that this school will close.

"The only absolute that we've got is that any Year 11 children at this school can finish Year 12 at this school.

"That's a guarantee that's been given to us by DETE (the Department of Education, Training and Employment)."

But a statement released by Mr Langbroek last night he said he would not be changing his mind, despite Ms Taylor's statement.

"My decision was made with full regard to all circumstances and I stand by it," Mr Langbroek said of the closure date.

"All students will receive assistance through individual student transition kits and are eligible for a \$750 allowance for out-of-pocket expenses.



"This has been a challenging time for the affected school communities and I assure everyone concerned that the education and welfare of our students continues to be my highest priority."

Federal Member for Moreton Graham Perrett said the closure date smacked of political expediency by a Government desperate not to have a school closure hanging around in the lead-up to the next state election.

Nyanda State High School community spokeswoman Larysa Jaworski said Mr Langbroek needed to honour the promise that Ms Taylor had made.

"I believe that she made a promise that she understood was correct and now he has turned around and renegeed on that," Ms Jaworski said.

**Danita Goodwin**

Senior Media Adviser

Office of the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek MP | Minister for Education, Training and Employment

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Education House | [30 Mary Street](#) | Brisbane | QLD 4000

PO Box 15033 | City East | Brisbane | QLD 4002

**Great State. Great Opportunity.**

Nyanda meeting Tuesday September 24

Attendees

JPL

Fiona Crawford

Danita Goodwin

Sophie Finemore

Larysa Jaworski

Felix Gibson

Ms Jaworski and Mr Gibson confirmed they were not taping the meeting. Ms Jaworski also confirmed she was not recording the meeting using a pulse pen.

LW: We appreciate you seeing us. But we are unhappy that you didn't come to the school to talk to parents.

FG: The year 11 cohort has real concerns about the school closing. In 10 weeks they will have to move to another school. The subject they want may not be available at the other school.

JP: we will make sure any/all subjects will be provided at whatever school they chose to go to. We will ensure the arrangements are in place. We are doing what we believe to be in the best interest of the cohort. I understand it is difficult especially given the assurances that were given.

LJ: We don't believe the enrolment figures showing the decline are truly reflective. We have a 25% itinerant student population with kids moving in and out. But the school was told not to enrol any new students. When you were at the Coorparoo Secondary College you said that any year 11 would have a two year transition so they could complete year 12. You said that any high school closure would have a 2 year transition.

JP: Let's look at the decision affecting this cohort. I am not going to change this decision.

FG: Why aren't you following the department guidelines/policy with Nyanda?

JP: They are the guidelines of the department.

JL: You only signed off on this policy this year.

JP: Ultimately it is my decision and I decided to close the school this year. I believe it is in the best interest of these students to transition to another school.

FG: The kids want to stay at Nyanda. The students want another year. Why can't we keep it open for another year?

JP: That would just be a death of 1000 cuts.



FG: the year 11s have only ten weeks. They were promised by the department and you that they could have another year. They would really appreciate another year.

JP: I didn't make that promise. And I'm sorry they can't have what they want.

LJ: let's take a different tack. What can we do to keep Nyanda open? What did Everton Park State high school do – why were they given a deal?

JP: They weren't.

FG: We can prove our school will be viable in 4 years.

LJ: There are enough students in the suburbs to have the school at capacity in five years.

JP: That's at odds with the information received by the Schools Planning commission which includes data from councils etc.

LJ: Let's compare it to EPSHS

FG: They were prepared to give up some land. We will too. We have two ovals you can have. We were told by Chris Rider that would not be considered in a submission. We asked him directly. We have a huge campus. We could combine with Salisbury State School, which is in a part of the suburb that could be better used for development. We could be a P12 merging with Salisbury and Rocklea. They are both growth areas in a growth node. We have viable solutions to keep the school open.

JP: The schools planning commission maps show that growth is not enough. Although we haven't done the final mapping for Brisbane south, it will not be enough.

LJ: if you haven't done the maps, wouldn't it make sense to wait?

JP: We have enough information to know that it won't be a high growth area. If it was, we would be keeping it.

FG: Why wouldn't you keep the school until it's needed? And use the land for a P12.

JP: Nyanda continues to have decreasing enrolments. DETE worked with the principal in increase student numbers but it didn't work. Therefore we used the criteria I've already talked about to find schools which weren't viable because we do have to build new schools. We have to fund expansion in areas of high growth.

LJ: The reason enrolments have been going down is because of repeated courier Mail articles saying the school is closing. Of course that means enrolments would decrease.

JP: The previous government allowed the cloud to continue hanging over Nyanda.

LJ: The point is the school has been kyboshed by the media and other schools, saying Nyanda is dying. Places like Yeronga and Holland Park told prospective parents not to bother with enrolling their children in Nyanda.

FG: The school has not had a fair run for a while.

LJ: We have been asking for help to stop other schools saying its closing, and therefore pushing kids into other schools. Nyanda is a phenomenal school. You should have come and seen it.

JP: I was unable to go to a number of other schools.

LJ: If you close Nyanda you will need another school there within 10 years.

JP: The Schools Planning Commission includes information from DETE mapping, councils, community plans, census data etc. It all goes towards predicting where we will need new schools. And we are building 11 new schools.

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Meeting concludes.