



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: Thursday 17th June 2010

For immediate release

NEED TO PLAN FOR NEW NORTHERN BEACHES SCHOOL: CRIPPS

Member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, has flagged the need for planning to be undertaken for a new primary school to be constructed on Townsville's Northern Beaches to service the rapidly growing suburbs between the Bohle River and the Black River.

Speaking in the Queensland Parliament last week during debate on the 2010 - 2011 state budget, Mr Cripps said with enrolments at Bohlevale State School currently at about 93 per cent capacity, the State Government needed to plan properly for the future.

"I think there will be a need for a new primary school to be constructed in the near future to service the rapidly growing needs of the suburbs on the Northern Beaches of Townsville, because Bohlevale State School has approximately 780 students" said Mr Cripps.

"Education Queensland considers that the enrolments at Bohlevale State School are currently at about 93 per cent capacity. Residential growth on the Northern Beaches of Townsville, in my electorate of Hinchinbrook, in the new North Shore development and the suburbs of Burdell, Bushland Beach and Mount Low, is still very strong" he said.

"Bohlevale State School also accepts students from the adjacent electorate of Thuringowa, from the suburbs of Deeragun and Jensen. The new suburb of Cosgrove is also planned for the Bohle Plains area. So there will be ongoing residential growth in that area, which will mean a requirement for additional educational facilities" said Mr Cripps.

"I implore the State Government to plan properly for the growth in that area. We need an appropriate amount of land in an appropriate location for a new school. We need to talk to and work with the Townsville City Council to ensure a new school is accommodated in its plans for the area and is linked in with transport and other services in the area" he said.

"I acknowledge the Townsville Catholic Education Office is constructing a new school at North Shore, to be known as St Clare's Catholic Primary and I welcome that" said Mr Cripps.

"I understand St Clare's has already attracted very strong enrolments of 130 for its first year starting in Semester 1, 2011. Such is the strength of residential growth on the Northern Beaches of Townsville, I believe a new state primary school will still be required" he said.

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