

MT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND MT HAWTHORN JUNIOR PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
PROPOSED AMALGAMATION

**579. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education and Training:**

I refer to the proposed amalgamation plans for Mt Hawthorn Primary School and Mt Hawthorn Junior Primary School.

- (1) Is it a fact that the majority of stakeholders in the consultation voted against the merger but were informed that it would proceed?
- (2) What further consultative procedures have been put in place to alleviate the angst felt by staff, teachers and the general school community?
- (3) How can the educational needs of students possibly be met under this amalgamation when the schools will remain at two different sites?
- (4) Given the serious condition of the current buildings, including the outside toilets at Mt Hawthorn Junior Primary School, why is an amalgamation on the agenda and not an upgrade of both school sites?
- (5) Compared with the original amalgamation proposal of 10 years ago, what resourcing and facilities have been attached to this proposal?
- (6) What are the plans for administration of the two separate sites given that currently there are two separate administrative buildings with associated staff?
- (7) If the amalgamation proceeds and the schools become a level 5 school, how many principals and deputies will work across the two sites?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question. It is quite clear that Hon Barry House has never visited the site, which is only four kilometres from this place. It would have been a good thing for the member to have visited the site before asking his question, because he would then know that the schools are co-located on the one site. I now turn to the seven-part question, which reminds me of one of the seven dwarfs; that is, Dopey.

**The PRESIDENT:** I note the time and that sessional orders are in place. I am not bound by technicalities, but I want the business of the house to proceed smoothly. Please answer the question so that I can invite the Leader of the Opposition to ask a final question.

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH:** Thank you, Mr President. I will now answer the question.

- (1) Yes. The majority of respondents did not support the amalgamation unless capital works accompanied it.
- (2) I visited the school and personally met with representatives from the school community on 15 August 2005 to discuss their concerns and consider their proposal.
- (3) Both the existing primary school and junior primary school are co-located on the one site. The educational needs of students will continue to be met.
- (4) It has been agreed that the Department of Education and Training will engage a consultant to develop a plan for the school that will incorporate a new administration block and toilet facilities. In addition, a new library resource centre will be built.
- (5) The current proposal for amalgamation will incorporate a new administration block and toilet facilities.
- (6) Should amalgamation proceed, a new administration building will be built.
- (7) Generally, level 5 schools have a principal and two deputies. There is scope for schools to negotiate other structures to meet their needs.