



SHIRE OF DANDARAGAN

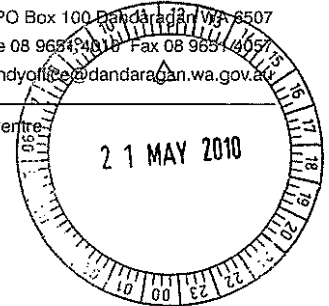
JURIEN BAY ADMINISTRATION CENTRE
PO Box 676 Jurien Bay WA 6516
Phone 08 9652 0800 Fax 08 9652 1310
Email: council@dandaragan.wa.gov.au

PUBLIC

DANDARAGAN OFFICE
PO Box 100 Dandaragan WA 6507
Phone 08 9654 4016 Fax 08 9654 4057
Email: dandyoffice@dandaragan.wa.gov.au

All correspondence to be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer at the Jurien Bay Administration Centre

Our Ref: S&E 3 (ME)
Your Ref:
Enquiries: Shane Love



19 May 2010

Renae Jewell
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Estimates and
Financial Operations Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Via facsimile: 9222 7805

Dear Sir / Madam

***INQUIRY INTO THE REMOVAL OF YEAR 11 AND 12 COURSES AT
DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS***

Please find attached the Shire of Dandaragan's submission into the removal of year 11 and 12 courses at District High Schools.

The Shire of Dandaragan has undertaken extensive community consultation in relation to this issue and has concluded that the decision to apply this policy to the Jurien Bay District High School is fundamentally flawed and has been made without appropriate research.

Yours faithfully

**Councillor Shane Love
PRESIDENT**



Shire of Dandaragan

SUBMISSION

REMOVAL OF YEAR 11 AND 12 AT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS

The Shire of Dandaragan acknowledges the logic and merit of this policy decision however, we are extremely concerned that the policy has been applied "across the board" without any effort having been made to research the demographic change or major development issues of the towns impacted.

More specifically, we are alarmed that the Jurien Bay District High School has been subject to a reduction in the "Senior School Allocation" in 2010 and advised that no allocation will be provided beyond 2011. It is evident to us that this decision has been made without a full understanding of the substantial demographic change that is occurring in this region and the primary reasons for this change.

It is noted that the Department of Education recognises the need to base its decision making on emerging developments and trends as it states in the *Plan for Public Schools 2008 - 2011*:

"Develop a proactive research, analysis and development capacity that includes researching emerging developments, issues and trends at State, national and international levels to position the Department to make well informed decisions."

The Shire of Dandaragan contends that in this circumstance, the Department of Education has not applied the appropriate research and analysis in the application of this policy decision to the Jurien Bay District High School. There are a number of significant reasons as to why the "Senior School Allocation" should be retained by the Jurien Bay District High School, those being:

1. COMPLETION OF INDIAN OCEAN DRIVE

In December 2010, Indian Ocean Drive will be complete providing a direct coastal route from Jurien Bay to the northern suburbs of Perth. The road has been a \$160 million initiative by the State Government that will be the primary impetus for the development of the Central Coast region of which Jurien Bay is the regional centre.

The Western Australian Planning Commission in their report *The Indian Ocean Drive Economic and Social Impact Study* estimate that the population of Jurien Bay will double within 10 years of the completion of the road.

At the southern end of the Jurien Bay townsite, the Western Australian Planning Commission has provided approval for the development of in excess of 8,000 residential lots, in recognition that Jurien Bay's long-term population will be in the order of 15,000 to 20,000 people.

This major State Government initiative has been completely ignored by the

Education Department in the application of the District High Schools policy. There is an urgent need for the application of this policy to the Jurien Bay District High School to be reassessed within the context of the Indian Ocean Drive project and the Planning Commissions forecasts of the roads impact.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Irrespective of the impact of Indian Ocean Drive, there is clear evidence of the migration of population from inland and metropolitan areas to coastal communities such as Jurien Bay. Since 1983, Jurien Bay's population has increased by more than 64%. By contrast Moora, the alternate school for Jurien Bay Year 11 and 12 students, has suffered a population decrease of 21% for the same period.

It should be further noted that the State Planning Strategy recognises the coastal strip between Perth and Geraldton as a "population and economic growth area".

3. REQUIREMENT FOR BUS TRAVEL

The Shire of Dandaragan understands that when the review of the "Senior Schools Allocation" was undertaken one of the criteria of the review was to target schools that were too far from senior high schools for bus travel. The alternate school for Jurien Bay Year 11 and 12 students is the Central Midlands Senior High School located in Moora. This school is 125km from Jurien Bay requiring a daily round trip of 250km, a minimum of three hours bus travel.

Furthermore, it has not been recognised that Jurien Bay District High School services a catchment including Greenhead, Cervantes and Leeman. Students from these schools will be required to travel in excess of 330km daily to attend Central Midlands Senior High School.

4. STUDENT ENROLMENT NUMBERS / TRENDS

Based on the schools online data, the Jurien Bay District High School currently has 26 students in Year 11 and 12. This represents a 135% increase on 2006 enrolments. Significantly, it should also be noted that the primary school population feeding into the District High School has grown in enrolments by 13% between 2006 and 2010. In 2010, there are also 29 Year 10 students.

In contrast, the Central Midlands Senior High School, which would be Jurien Bay Year 11 and 12 alternate school, has had its Year 11 and 12 enrolments drop by 38% between 2006 and 2010. Furthermore, the Moora Primary School enrolments have decreased by 35% for the same period.

These figures demonstrate a sustained growth in Jurien Bay's enrolments and a sustained decline in Moora / Central Midlands enrolments, and yet under the changes to the "Senior Schools Allocation", students will be required to leave a growing school population in a high growth town to travel in excess of 250km per day to a town and school with significantly declining populations.

5. APPROPRIATE LEARNING PATHWAYS

At present, the Jurien Bay District High School provides for a strong focus on general construction, hospitality and aquaculture. These pathways have been strongly supported through local business providing structured workplace training. The focus on general construction hospitality and aquaculture has been quite deliberately structured around the primary industries in Jurien Bay and the future

demand for skilled employees in these disciplines. Requiring Jurien Bay Year 11 and 12 students to leave this environment and travel to Moora which has very different industries and employment opportunities will not only disadvantage the student but also disengage industry that is essential to these students' employment opportunities.

In April 2010, the Shire of Dandaragan conducted a series of workshops with community members, government agencies and the business sector in order to identify and address the key impacts of the delivery of Indian Ocean Drive. The issue identified in those workshops by all three sectors as the most critical issue to be resolved before the delivery of Indian Ocean Drive, was ensuring year 11 and 12 courses were reinstated to meet the growing demands of the coastal population.

In summary, we believe the decision to remove the "Senior Schools Allocation" from the Jurien Bay District High School has been made without an understanding of the broader development of the town, demographic change, and the State Government's vision for the Central Coast region.

This decision has caused considerable alarm and confusion in the community as it is clearly at odds with the growth and development of Jurien Bay.

We would respectfully request your urgent intervention in this matter to reverse this decision and restore the communities' confidence in having their children educated.