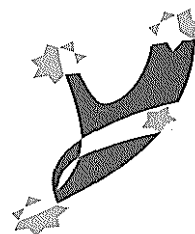


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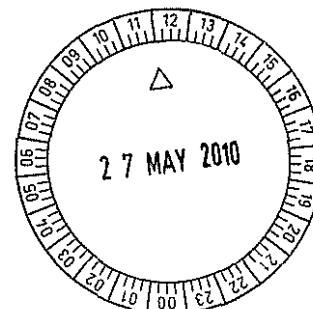
24 May 2010

PUBLIC



**Shire of
YILGARN**

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



Dear Ms Jewell

SUBMISSION – INQUIRY INTO THE REMOVAL OF YEAR 11 & 12 COURSES AT DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOLS

I refer to the letter received by the Chair of the above Committee, the Hon. Giz Watson MLC, advising Council of the Inquiry being undertaken into the removal of Year 11 & 12 courses from District High Schools throughout Western Australia.

The Committees Terms of Reference were submitted to Council at its Ordinary meeting held on Friday, 21 May 2010 to which Council resolved to provide a submission based upon the effects that the decision has on the Southern Cross District High School and the community of the Yilgarn district. The following issues are raised for consideration by the Standing Committee:-

1. 7 students at the Southern Cross District High School are currently undertaking Year 11 and 12 studies. To withdraw these classes it deprives those students of progressing in their education and forcing them to drop out of school;
2. Living in a rural/remote district, 100kms from the nearest Senior High School, not every parent has the ability to afford Boarding fees, even if they are partly subsidised by the State or Australian Government;
3. Schooling in Years 11 and 12 needs to be structured and meaningful and it cannot just be delivered by Distance Education programs. There needs to be personal teacher contact with students rather than just external contact; and
4. Removing Year 11 and 12 studies from the Southern Cross District High School will ultimately affect teacher numbers at the school. The reduction in teacher numbers and students from the school has negative impacts across the whole community.

Council urges the Standing Committee to deliver a report to Government condemning the removal of Year 11 and 12 courses from District High Schools. All Western Australians deserve to be provided a high school education to Years 11 and 12 and where they choose to live and their socio-economic standing should not be considered at the expense of the Government undertaking the exercise just to save dollars.

Council looks forward to receiving the outcomes of the Standing Committee's Report.

Yours faithfully

Eddie Piper
A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER