



SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN

ABN 48 322 867 806

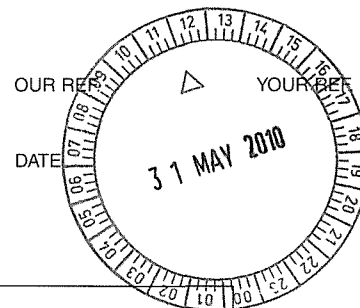
1 LONGHURST STREET, NAREMBEEN, W.A. 6369

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Submission 40

PUBLIC



SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN SUBMISSION

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – PARLIAMENT HOUSE WA STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

INQUIRY

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

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Terms of Reference: *The Estimates and Financial Operations Committee has resolved to inquire into and report to the Legislative Council on the Government decision, announced in March 2010, to cease senior school allocation funding* for year 11 and 12 courses at 21 district high schools across Western Australia, with particular reference to:*

- a) the decision-making process and rationale behind the decision;*
- b) the effect of the decision on the State budget, the affected students and communities;*
- c) the adequacy, cost effectiveness and social impact of the educational alternatives proposed; and*
- d) any other relevant matter.*

The Committee intends to report to the Legislative Council in August 2010.

**Terms of Reference amended 18/05/10.*



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DATE

MEMBERS CONDUCTING THE INQUIRY

Members Conducting Inquiry

Members: Hon. Giz Watson MLC
Hon. Philip Warren Gardiner MLC
Hon. Elizabeth (Liz) Lloyd Behjat MLC
Hon. Kenneth (Ken) Dunstan Elder Travers MLC
Hon. Ljiljanna Maria Ravlich MLC

Media 18/05/2010
Statements:

Staff Members: Mrs Lisa Peterson, BA (Hons) (Advisory Officer (General))
Ms Renae Jewell (Committee Clerk)

SUBMISSION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FROM

Shire of Narembeen
1 Longhurst Street
NAREMBEEN WA 6369

STANDING COMMITTEE SUBMISSION CONTACT

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

STANDING COMMITTEE SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE

5.00pm ON MONDAY, 31st MAY 2010

FRANK PECZKA

Chief Executive Officer

26th May 2010



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SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN SUBMISSION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Estimates and Financial Operations Committee has resolved to inquire into and report to the Legislative Council on the Government decision, announced in March 2010, to cease senior school allocation funding* for year 11 and 12 courses at 21 district high schools across Western Australia, with particular reference to:

a) the decision-making process and rationale behind the decision;

RESPONSE: the decision making process of the State Government announced in March 2010 to cease senior school allocation funding for year 11 and 12 courses at 21 district high schools lacks integrity and transparency.

The State Government announced in this years Budget an additional \$18.727 million over four years to continue the State Government's election commitment to **give more autonomy and flexibility** to public schools. One can assume from this statement that the additional fund are saved by the announcement to cease year 11 and 12 courses at 21 district high schools across Western Australia.

More importantly the State Government has backed up its election commitment to give more autonomy and flexibility to public schools. Again without knowing the full detail of the election commitment it appears that proposals by selected and nominated public schools to be Independent Public Schools, is very contradictory to recent Government announcements and to the continued Government financial support and administration responsibility to all Public Schools, not just a select few.

The rationale behind this decision is unknown and not proven to be prudent decision making for the good governance of Public Education in Public Schools. Independent Public Schools will seek committed funding to operate the School and **to have the "autonomy and flexibility" to engage and appoint** quality Teachers including the continuance of Years 11 and 12 at Public District High Schools.

b) the effect of the decision on the State budget, the affected students and communities;

RESPONSE: The effect of the decision of the State budget will be a negative effect in regards to any budget savings and/or allocations need to remain in the budget to deliver Public Education to all students in all Public Schools and not just to a select few that may be dismissed as a Public School by being declared an Independent Public School.



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The effect on Students will be significant in regards to maintaining a Family support network including Family affordability considerations with increased costs and greater isolation to Family for support when required. Social and Personal disruption is of concern when a choice is not available locally,

Identified Public Schools have relied upon local voluntary input into the development of School Facilities and Equipment including Canteen and Parent support for Sporting and Cultural Activities. The Community who have been fundraising and contributing to enhancement of their local School seemingly are now being denied an opportunity to partake in local and community decision making on the future of their School. The ownership factor with busy bees, financial contributions and cost saving programs to the Department seemingly are or is being ignored when the School and its community of Students and Parents are being denied to develop their school into a competitive and results orientated School.

Applications for Independent Public Schools is being offered at the moment and widely advertised, the local School is being denied an opportunity to determine its future in regards to Year 11 and 12 Education opportunities with this offer being advertised.

c) the adequacy, cost effectiveness and social impact of the educational alternatives proposed:

RESPONSE: *Social and Family impact will be greatly reduced if the local School is able to determine what's best for its school in association with the Community. The devolving of power upon the local school Community and the Principal is being widely promoted with the Independent Public School opportunity, yet it seems that the same School is being denied an opportunity to consider a proposal to continue on with Year 11 and 12 High School Students, because of external decision making that is remote and in conflict with a forward direction.*

If a School has the quality of Teachers and is able to attract and retain the quality of Teachers for its High School section, then this local school decision should be respected and therefore supported.

The Community has developed and supported Shared Facilities MOU with the Department in past years and continue to do so, why then degrade and deny the School that has the opportunity to grow its business when so much investment has been made by the Community and the School. The Government and the Department continue to ignore the Community based initiatives and community based fund raising and the reward is to downgrade the School and therefore that School will never be reimbursed for its past efforts.



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d) any other relevant matter.

RESPONSE: *The identified Schools are Public, are Community supported, are Community driven and are the local choice of Education. The Community should not be disadvantaged against external decision making processes without a large input into their Schools future and one that the Community has raised large amounts of funds to keep the improvements up in order to give the students an equal opportunity to stay local in comparison to larger schools that are funded without question and without full commitment of its community.*

The system and the Department has opened up Schools and its associated Facilities for shared community use, the community raises funds for vital projects, the School develops Shared Use Facility MOU's, the Schools attract quality Teachers into its Education Community, the School Utilises Community Facilities at minimal and/or no cost, the Community cleans up the School Grounds with major busy bees, the School and its local Community are one, yet we observe that the Department plans to make external decisions without justification and without weighted Community involvement in our School.

It appears the fairness and equity measures in this process are ignored and totally absent.


FRANK PECZKA
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Narembeen