

## Submission to the Inquiry into the Joint Use and Location of Public Buildings

Submitted by Clem Campbell

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Our communities are changing. The traditional meeting and gathering places are changing from community halls and churches to the shopping centres/malls and schools are playing a more significant role. We should therefore look at utilising these areas for joint use and co-location of public services, rather than the need to construct new public buildings.

### Schools:

Successful examples of joint use of facilities have included the siting of the school library at the front of the school for easy public access and the library managed as a joint school-town library. Council made a contribution towards purchasing reading materials – books, papers, large print books – videos, CD's that were more likely to be used by the public, and paid for staffing of the library for after school and Saturday morning opening. Computers and the Internet were available in the library for public use and these became adult education tools. The school has become a more community school rather than a state government 'owned' school.

Playing fields have been developed where a sporting club is provided after school and weekend access for a contribution to maintenance costs, or construction of a canteen and dressing sheds or provision of lights. The siting of public swimming pools, especially in the regional and country towns, could also be considered on schools grounds and costs shared.

Similarly, school assembly halls are utilised for public use. However, public liability insurance and the attitude to alcohol on school grounds are common concerns.

#### Shopping Centres/malls:

Already different levels of government are utilising the spaces in shopping centres to provide government client services. The Brisbane City Council very effectively provides customer service centres and public libraries from shopping centres. The use of the library facilities and associated meeting/training rooms facilities is excellent and above expectation.

The advantage of utilising shopping centre facilities is that the public transport systems are more likely to already be servicing the centre rather than stand alone buildings.

Governments should therefore be prepared to consider joint development of these sites to have purpose built government facilities included in plans rather than just utilising general shop space.

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