



6 May 2022

To Whom It May Concern

**SUPPORT FOR URGENT ATTENTION TO GILLIESTON PUBLIC SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE**

I write in support of urgent action required to address the current substandard and unsafe infrastructure issues faced by the students and staff at Gillieston Public School.

Gillieston Public School has in the vicinity of 300 students and continues to expand its student base. Despite the growing student numbers, the school made up of 12 classrooms with only 2 of those classrooms being permanent buildings. The other 10 classrooms are demountable buildings. Adding more demountable buildings to accommodate a growing school population is not acceptable. Gillieston Public School requires infrastructure investment by way of provision of permanent classrooms.

The toilet facilities at the school are unacceptable. Made up of 2 demountable buildings for females and 1 demountable building for males, these facilities are extraordinarily unhygienic in summer and uncomfortably cold in winter. The sewerage is stored in on-site tanks and periodically pumped out. During times of wet weather or flood the overflow renders the outside space unusable and school management is required to cordon off the outside space for health and safety reasons. An investment in the provision of permanent toilet facilities connected to town sewerage services is urgently needed.

The perimeter fencing at the school is made of nothing more than waist-high chicken and farm fencing wire. To bring the school grounds and the children's safety into line with all other public schools, this needs to be urgently addressed by way of installation of 1.8m or 2.1m steel pointed fencing.

The school's playing field is situated on a significant slope which needs to be levelled. In its current state there is little capacity for students to participate in organised team sports such as soccer or rugby. Indeed, due to the current gradient of the land sprains and injuries occur and this is completely unacceptable. The oval needs to be levelled and developed for proper use.

The list of deficiencies associated with Gillieston Public School's infrastructure is quite frankly alarming, and I would urge action be taken to provide the above infrastructure and to bring the school's basic infrastructure requirements to an acceptable standard as a matter of priority.

Yours faithfully

Mayor Philip Penfold JP

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