

Questions on Notice taken during the hearing

ORIGINAL:

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: I am not quite sure which witness made a comment about refinement of the consultation process. There were some difficulties last year that led to some discussions between the federation and the department. Was I correct in hearing you say that you believe if the new process, procedure or protocol is followed now and honoured in its intended spirit it should work better than what it has replaced?

Ms LEMAIRE: Yes, we believe so. Obviously, if we have problems still with it then we would go back and renegotiate it. But essentially we believe there is a lot more clarity. If you look at appendix B, the Simple Fact Sheet, a lot of complaint to us was about the fact that people were not always advised of clear reasons as to why a school would be placed in recess, et cetera. It did not necessarily have all the information around enrolment trends. To actually have a very clear fact sheet like this should assist. Similarly with the flow chart and the process for saying we need to set up a consultation committee early and begin the consultation with representatives. But that committee is not the only consultation. It is intended that there would be broader consultation. But I guess we have also got to see the process continuing on.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: Are you aware of any schools that are in a scenario at the moment in which the issue of their future is being considered and that procedure is being worked through?

Ms LEMAIRE: I became aware by an email from an organiser last night—because I have been elsewhere I have not been able to follow it up—that there is a possibility and there was a question about consultation. I could take that on notice.

The Hon. GREG DONNELLY: If you could do that, please.

ANSWER:

I have been advised that the decision was made to close Numeralla Public School. Protocols have been followed in terms of consultation.