

Submission
No 23

INQUIRY INTO CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 8/08/2015

Partially Confidential

To

The Greens Education spokesman Mr John Kaye and The Closure of Public Schools committee.

I have read with great interest and welcome the NSW Upper House inquiry to investigate Small School closures.

As a long standing farming family within the Murrami community and parents of ex - students of the Murrami school I am writing to express my disappointment and concern of the closure of Murrami School.

I attended a public meeting which was called by the School Principal [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the end of September 2014, this meeting was to inform the community of the decision that the school will close at the end of December 2014 and will amalgamate with Whitton School at Whitton.

The Principal stated that [REDACTED] was the only one who knew of the Department of Educations decision and couldn't say anything as [REDACTED] had a code of conduct to follow and was bound by confidentiality otherwise [REDACTED] job would have been in jeopardy.

I do not understand why such an important and significant decision such as the closure of a School would be kept secret as this decision effects the whole community, the parents and community had a right to be informed long beforehand and there should have been consultations with all involved from the Minister for Education Mr Adrian Piccoli and the Murrami School Principal to discuss the situation, options and alternatives and not just be told this is what's going to happen.

There was no such consultation.

Two main questions asked at the meeting were:

1. What can we do to stop this from happening ? answer- Nothing the department has already made the decision.
2. What about going to a one teacher school ? answer- Not an option, a lot of work involved for one teacher.

I am of the understanding that there was going to be approximately 19 student to enrol this year 2015, I would have thought this would have been enough to keep the school open, with this number of students there should have been an option of a one teacher school trial period offered and a decision made based on the outcome of the trial.

Families come and go all the time in small communities due to work commitments and personal reasons so numbers do fluctuate, this has always been the case.

The Murrami School was the heart of the community, it brought the School families and community together with Educational and Social events such as Education open day, CWA International day, Annual Christmas concert and awards night and sports days.

Ideally, I would like to see the decision of the closure of Murrami School overturned, it should never have been closed.

I strongly agree that the closure of small Schools needs to be investigated and reviewed before any more schools are closed.

Yours sincerely