

Indooroopilly State High School Parents & Citizens' Association

7 July 2025

Hon. Jarrod Bleijie
Deputy Premier, Minister for State
Development, Infrastructure and Planning
By email:
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cc: Mr Michael Berkman
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cc: Cr Penny Wolff
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Dear Minister,

Submission for AID-0425-0936 - Urgent Review and Amendment of the Indooroopilly State High School Master Plan to Reflect Realistic Enrolment Projections and Critical Facility Needs

The Indooroopilly State High School (ISHS) P&C Association acknowledges and, in principle, supports the Queensland Government's commitment to investing in the school's facilities. We particularly endorse the commencement of Project 1. However, our fundamental and consistently communicated concern is that the current master plan is **manifestly unfit for purpose**, primarily due to its reliance on unrealistic planning assumptions.

We believe this plan, as currently conceived, will be inadequate for a decade. This submission provides evidence-based concerns regarding the proposed enrolment capacity, critical facility shortfalls, inconsistent project phasing, and the imperative to protect our school's unique culture. It concludes with specific requests for transparent adaptive planning and an invitation for direct dialogue to collaboratively develop a master plan that is truly fit for purpose for the long term.

1. Introduction: Our Position

The ISHS P&C Association is dedicated to ensuring that Indooroopilly State High School provides a safe, modern, and conducive learning environment for its students and staff. We represent a significant number of families, teachers, students, and community members directly affected by the current state and future planning of the school's infrastructure. We welcome the recognition that investment is required in the school and appreciate the government's stated aim to "meet community needs" for quality education and a "safe and secure environment". Our input is intended to assist the Department in its goal of "better understanding the issues".

2. Core Concerns: Why the Current Plan is Unfit for Purpose

Our primary concerns are supported by facts, community feedback, and expert analysis, demonstrating the tangible impact of the issues.

2.1 Unrealistic Enrolment Projections Undermine the Master Plan

The master plan's projected enrollment goal directly contradicts the Department's stated commitment to delivering "world-class education".

- **Wrong Goal:** The plan aims to accommodate a target of **2,500 students**.
- **Current Reality:** The school's **enrollment is actually 2,996**.
- **Expert Contradiction:** An **independent expert analysis, commissioned by the Department itself** in February 2025, concluded that ISHS is likely to reach **3,175 students by 2029** under a high-growth scenario. (See Appendix 2)
- **Consequence:** Planning for a school size so significantly below its current and projected student population from day one **condemns students to continued overcrowding and insufficient resources**. We believe the master plan should be based on 3,175 students.

2.2 Critical Facility Shortfalls Remain Unaddressed

The proposed plan fails to adequately address severe and persistent facility deficiencies and basic amenities, contradicting commitments for "better facilities" and "safer classrooms".

- **Specialist Classroom Gap:** There is a **critical under-supply of specialist classrooms**, including science laboratories, manual arts workshops, hospitality rooms, and music/dance/drama rooms, particularly when compared to neighbouring State High Schools.
 - Current science labs are undersized, lack equipment and storage, and even proposed new labs are feared to be **"too small from day 1"**. Teachers consistently emphasise the need for direct consultation on fit-outs to ensure practicality.
- **Basic Student Amenities:** There is a severe and persistent **shortage of basic student amenities**, such as toilets and drinking water bubblers, leading to queues and inadequate shaded areas during breaks. The community advocates for a designated, significantly larger toilet block to rectify this critical deficit.
- **Performing Arts Facilities:** Concerns exist that the proposed performing arts facility (Project 2) **is** undersized for the school's production and event scale and not able to improve the school's operations in the way it has been designed. Given the unique and deeply personal history behind the current building, this phase needs particular care and community consultation in the planning.

2.3 Site Constraints and Inconsistent Project Phasing

The school's site has **significant constraints** (fire, flood, environmental, heritage assessments).

- There are already **32 demountable buildings on the oval** to cater for ongoing growth, a loss of oval space not solved by the master plan.
- The decision to proceed with predominantly low-rise (2-3 story) builds, despite the limited buildable footprint, is questioned.
- Crucial Projects 2, 3, and 4 (including the Performing Arts Centre and new Administration) are explicitly designated for "longer term planning and not intended to be delivered in the medium term". This deferred timeline seems inconsistent with urgent demands of current and projected enrolments and the promise of "comprehensive upgrades".
- Traffic and Parking: Existing traffic and parking issues, particularly during peak times on Magor Street, Turner Street, Ward Street, Lambert Road, Carnarvon Road and Francis Terrace, are a major concern for the surrounding community, with questions about safety of proposed basement parking and the need for external road treatments.

2.4 Jeopardising Unique School Culture

Protecting the **unique school culture of Indooroopilly State High School is paramount.**

- ISHS is well recognised as an exceptional school with a long history of producing exceptional graduates. It represents a globally unique community of scholars, staff, leaders and families. This is a reputation decades in the making.
- The P&C is concerned that any plan for 2500 students only seems achievable by destroying some of the crucial components of our school and its community that make it what it is.

2.5 Insufficient Consultation

During initial consultations, we were explicitly advised that **only Project 1 was open for input at that stage**. We hold strong views on the remaining issues for Projects 2, 3, and 4, and cannot be considered as having been "consulted" on those projects yet. It is impossible for the Department to be consulting on projects 2, 3 or 4 now, without drawings and relevant impact assessments for these projects. Bridging this gap must be a critical component of the adaptive planning the Department assured us would occur.

3. A Path Forward

The ISHS P&C Association seeks a set of facilities that realistically support our current and future community, rather than relying on a theoretical future enrollment number. Our objective is to bring the school's facilities up to the average standard observed in comparable state high schools in our region. We urge the Department to acknowledge the demonstrated needs of our school and amend the master plan to align with current and evidence-based future enrollment projections, ensuring a fit-for-purpose outcome.

We reiterate our requests for evidence-based planning and transparent adaptive planning strategies:

- **We request a clear guide to adaptive planning, specifically details on how and when this process will commence.**
- **This adaptive planning must deliver on three key objectives:**
 - **To maximize the use of Project 1 to address the specialist teaching space gap as much as possible.**
 - **To give due consideration to increasing the height of the building proposed in Project 1, or to at least construct a building that can support additional floors being added later**
 - **To reach a common, agreed, evidence-informed position on the base student number forecast that is more transparent than simply stating, 'this is the forecast'.**

We look forward to seeing this feedback acknowledged and included in the next steps of the planning process.

Yours faithfully,

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Appendix 1 - Summary Results from P&C community survey, demonstrating widespread support for facility upgrades

Appendix 2 - Independent expert analysis on enrolment projections confirms 3,175 enrolments is the likely scenario for this school