

Press Release

After the recent announcement by the State Government that Grade 7 students would move to high school in 2015, the Kenmore State High School P&C Association moved to form a focus group consisting of representatives from all feeder primary schools.

The group met recently to begin collaborative discussions on the implications for Kenmore High and how the process might be best managed. 'I am gratified by the response from our P&C and feeder schools to look at the grade 7 transition and offer ideas on how our campus may look in 2015 and beyond' says the principal of Kenmore High, Mr John Fitzgerald.

Kenmore High is already a large government school with around 1680 students. Current growth rates and the inclusion of grade 7 mean that the school population could be around 2200 students in 2015. That number would make Kenmore High one of the largest secondary schools in the state.

The focus group wants to ensure that during this growth phase the school has all resources at its disposal to maintain its excellent academic record. Further, that student welfare and pastoral care is enhanced so that students are nurtured and able to perform at their best. 'We are determined that the government seriously looks at all available options for expansion rather than just give us the cheapest and most expedient option' says the focus group chair, Mr Scott Meehan.

A four-phase master plan was developed for the school that shows the location of proposed new buildings, some of which have already been built. 'The master plan will have to be re-visited in light of these new circumstances' says Mr Meehan. 'Unless further land adjacent to the school is acquired, multi-storey buildings might have to be built so we can preserve as much play space and sporting facilities as possible. Any new buildings should also be constructed above the 2011 flood levels.'

One option for expansion that the focus group has already ruled out was the idea of converting Kenmore State School into a new junior secondary campus with Kenmore High's existing site becoming the senior secondary campus. But Kenmore State School has neither the facilities nor the size to manage more than 1000 students in grades 7 to 9 and having one school on two completely separate campuses would be unworkable.

The building of another secondary school somewhere in Mt Crosby or Karana Downs is an idea that has received media coverage. Students who live in those suburbs are outside of the catchment area for Kenmore High and are not guaranteed placements. While this option will be discussed there is currently no land or funding for the idea.

Primary school parents who have an interest in the expansion of Kenmore High should liaise with their P&C committee to keep updated. The focus groups can be contacted at kshs.transition@gmail.com.