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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

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**PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS**

**SUMMERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

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*Presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor pursuant to the provisions of the Public Works Committee Act 1914.*

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**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

*Mr Wilson (Chairman)*

*Mr Wing*

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

*Mr Cox*

*Mr Hidding*

By Authority: Government Printer, Tasmania

To His Excellency the Honourable William John Ellis Cox, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

### **MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY**

The Committee has investigated the following proposal:—

### **SUMMERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

and now has the honour to present the Report to Your Excellency in accordance with the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Summerdale Primary School was established in 1913 as a one room school. The school remained very small for the next 50 years when gradual expansion in the area saw the school grow to approximately 100 children by 1970.

Throughout the years since 1970 the accelerated development of the Western Suburbs has seen the enrolment grow to 713 children in 1998. The school today draws children from the suburbs of Prospect, Summerhill, Blackstone Heights, West Launceston and Travellers Rest. There are still children attending from Hadspen, although it is no longer an intake area.

The school enjoys a close relationship with its parent community. There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in school decision making and to participate in school programs and activities. There are large numbers of parents involved through the opportunities available to them.

The Summerdale School is built on a sloping site and is basically built in three main blocks. The older school section of the main office and administration area, 11 classrooms, library, music room, staff room and toilets occupies the area closest to Stanley Street. The central block contains 6 classrooms, toilets and offices with the two kindergarten rooms making up the third area.

The school appears to have been constructed without thoughtful forward planning, consequently there is an urgent need to link the buildings with external covered walkways to enable movement between the buildings on wet days.

Over the years 2 separate terrapin blocks of 2 and 3 classrooms have been erected on the site closer to the central level.

The current library is the size of an ordinary classroom. Obviously with over 700 students requiring to use its resources it is totally inadequate. The rapid growth of the student population and anticipated continued growth until at least the year 2002 means new classrooms are essential and are urgently required.

The major program of redevelopment planned to occur during 1998 will provide 4 extra classrooms and a new library and the refurbishing of several older classrooms and the staff room.

Efforts have been made to create a balance between "greening" the grounds with a variety of native plants and shrubs and the provision of adequate playing space. An oval, tennis/netball courts and community centre hall provide for active play and are supported by 3 shaded passive play areas. Several playground areas are established in the grounds and a planned program for the establishment of a new active/passive play area is currently underway.

There are three other primary schools within reasonable distance of Summerdale Primary School, namely:

West Launceston Primary School

Hagley Farm Primary School; and

Glen Dhu Primary School

West Launceston Primary and Glen Dhu Primary School both have considerable enrolment pressures of their own, both recently have received temporary accommodation, both are on the Macquarie District's priority listing for capital works redevelopment. West Launceston in particular has introduced an enrolment capping.

Recent efforts to encourage Summerhill, Prospect, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen students to bypass Summerdale Primary and enrol at Glen Dhu Primary, which has some limited vacancies, have not been successful.

The Summerdale Primary School is experiencing positive enrolment growth which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future as detailed below:

#### Total Predicted Enrolments

	<i>K</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>FTEs</i>
1998.....	104	111	106	84	84	72	80	73	710	658
1999.....	106	103	112	102	82	81	74	78	737	684
2000.....	84	105	104	108	100	80	84	72	737	695
2001.....	91	83	106	101	107	97	82	82	748	703
2002.....	91	90	84	103	99	103	100	81	751	706
2003.....	91	90	91	82	101	96	106	98	755	710
2004.....	91	90	91	88	81	98	99	104	742	697

#### PROPOSAL AND COSTING

The brief of requirements as enunciated by the Department of Education, Training, Community and Cultural Development for the redevelopment and upgrading at Summerdale Primary School is as follows:

1. Provision of 6 new classrooms of which
  - 4 are new classrooms for early childhood area.
  - one involving the refurbishment of the existing library back to a classroom.
  - and one in the form of a seminar space classroom within the new library.
2. Provision of new library/resource area located centrally within the school site to encourage student access. This is to be located on an accessible edge of the school for community access after hours.
3. Provision of new male & female student toilets located adjacent to the new 4 classroom development and disabled persons uni sex toilet adjacent library resource area.
4. Remodelling of existing classrooms to better utilise space and incorporate new computers including:
  - Construct 3 classrooms from 4 inadequate teaching spaces and remodel a fourth classroom to provide functional wet area and cloak facilities in block 1A facing Stanley Street.
5. Extension of the existing staffroom to cater for additional teachers.
6. Provision of storage space adjacent to the staff room and new library resource area.
7. Provision of covered ways to allow:
  - Linking elements of block 1.
  - Linking new classrooms to block 2.
  - Linking new classrooms to new toilet block.
  - Provide a new covered access way to block 1C, extending to existing corridor.
  - Allowing for linkages to future classroom development and access the southern end of the site.
8. Provision of ramped access to provide disabled access off new and existing development where physically possible.
9. Development of a coordinated building and landscape solution that maximises the availability of suitable recreation spaces and provides a protected courtyard with adequate shade etc.

The available budget for this development is \$1 250 000.00. This figure includes allowances for arts funding and building works contingency of \$50 000.00

Building costs include allowance for mechanical, electrical, fire and hydraulic services.

	\$
Library / Resource Centre & Seminar Facility .....	410 000.00
4 New Classrooms .....	360 000.00
New Toilets / Store & Sandpit .....	80 000.00
Modifying Existing Classrooms (8 No.) .....	170 000.00
Steps, Ramps, Covered Ways and Sun Control .....	70 000.00
Extended Staff Room and Storage Areas .....	40 000.00
Site Works including Demolition, Hydraulic Services, Car Parking and Landscape .....	70 000.00
	1 200 000.00

In addition funds for whole of school computer cabling in line with New Directions for Education requirements of \$50 000.00 will be made available.

### EVIDENCE

The Committee met in Launceston on Thursday, 4 June in Launceston. The Committee inspected the existing facilities at the School and this was followed by a public hearing at the Public Building, St John Street, Launceston.

The following witnesses gave evidence at the hearing:

Mr Wayne Blazely, Principal, Summerdale Primary School,

Mr Peter Daniels, Deputy Principal, Summerdale Primary School,

Mr Les Burbury, Senior Executive Officer (Project Management) Department Of Education, Training, Community and Cultural Development, and

Mr Andrew Floyd, Project Architect.

The Principal of the School, Mr Blazely, led the evidence by submitting to the Committee:

"the school has grown significantly in the last few years to a point where there is a need for extra classrooms and in conjunction with that, the library and staff facilities have been outgrown through the extra student enrolments. As I mentioned this morning, the need for classrooms at this stage last year where we had to import a classroom because of an extra group of children this year. So, on the basis of that, we will get four new classrooms and, with the library being relocated and the current library becoming a classroom, there will be five classrooms as a result of the redevelopment, which will enable us to get back our current general purpose room which is being used as a classroom. In fact it has never been used as a general purpose room for drama and physical education activities that it was designed to be used for, so that will be a bonus. We already have staff who would be class teachers if we had the facilities to put them on class, so in that respect we will have four new classrooms plus our general purpose room, which will give us five classrooms.

The library facility, as you saw this morning, was totally inadequate for 700 children with the resources that we have. As far as I am concerned, the overall benefit of this is the drawing-together of the school as one complex with the covered ways and the way in which the plan has been drawn up, and Andrew will talk about that. But from our point of view the need for it is urgent in relation to the enrolments, and the staffroom redevelopment will provide for the staff that we now have, which is 43 teachers and ancillary staff, 58 in all. And also the classroom redevelopment that you saw is going to provide for a much more versatile area for that particular area in the school which was originally an open-plan area, and over the years was reconstructed into three different classrooms."

The Project Architect, Mr Floyd, added:

"there are probably four main elements to this project, the first being the additional classrooms and the demonstrated need for that is the increasing school population. Probably a second element would be the new library/seminar centre, because of the inadequacy of the current arrangement being probably less than a third of the size that it ought to be. A third element to it is the remodelling of the existing classrooms to come up to an appropriate size and to also cater for the introduction of the computers and the new philosophies in the teaching program. The fourth item is the connection of the various elements of the school back into a cohesive campus, where we have covered ways and connections for the staff and the pupils to actually circulate around the school and to get to the hub of the school, which is the library/resource area.

As we talked about on site, one of the fundamentals in this development is locating the library and resource area on an edge of the school that is available to the community and allow that public interaction between the school and the community. The master plan that we have prepared allows for those things to happen and it allows for the future development that is anticipated with increasing participation rates by the community as time goes by."

The Committee sought further evidence regarding the enrolment statistics of other schools in the area, to satisfy itself that there were not a large number of pupils travelling from other areas and thus unduly increasing the load on Summerdale. The statistics provided demonstrated this was not the case and only a very small number was involved.

The Committee also sought information regarding the costing of the southern covered way extending from the southern side of Block B to the new library. In a written response to the Committee it was submitted the cost of this would be to the order of \$80 000.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The evidence presented to the Committee demonstrated the need for the proposed work to be carried out. The design solution presented to the Committee addresses the need in an efficient and economic way.

The Committee is of the opinion that the construction of the southern covered way is an important element which would fully complete the project.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends the project, in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted at an estimated total cost of \$1 250 000.

Parliament House, Hobart  
July 1998

Hon. S. J. WILSON, M.L.C., *Chairman.*