



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Petition

Registration No:	10
Title:	New School for Palmerston
Presented on:	Wednesday 1 December 2005
Presented by:	Mr Mills
Referred To:	Minister for Employment, Education and Training
Response due:	13 June 2006
Response received:	24 March 2006
Response presented:	28 March 2006

### Petition

To the Speaker and Members of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly:

We the undersigned citizens do respectfully call upon the Northern Territory Government to build a new primary school in Palmerston to commence operation in first term 2007 or before, to relieve the pressure on existing schools.

Palmerston continues to be recognised as one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia. This growth is reflected in the ten schools in Palmerston. Some Palmerston schools have enrolments significantly beyond capacity. Classes are held in libraries, withdrawal areas and at time even the stage has had to be converted for classroom use.

New houses continue to be built in Rosebery, Gunn and Bakewell, yet no new school has been build in the area since 1998.

Secondly we call upon the Northern Territory Government to clarify for Palmerston families exactly when the additional secondary school will be built.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will every pray.

### Response

Thank you for your letter of 14 February 2006 regarding Petition Number 10 of 1 December 2005 regarding a new school for Palmerston.

In accordance with Standing Order 1001 the following is in response to the petition calling upon the Northern Territory Government to build a new primary school in Palmerston to commence operation in the first term of 2007 or before, to relieve the pressure on existing schools; and to clarify for Palmerston families exactly when an additional secondary school will be built.

The planning process to establish new facilities has commenced to build a new government school in Palmerston on Lot 8584 at Rosebery. Lot 8584 will require rezoning in order to allow the proposed

development. This land has been identified for a Community Hub in the draft Palmerston Eastern Suburbs Framework Plan.

A proposal to build a new school at Rosebery is listed on the DEET Capital Works Rolling Program as a forward works item for 2008-09 and will be subject to budgetary consideration in the years leading up to the design and construction stages of the school. The timing of a new school at Rosebery may be influenced by the outcome of the middle years community consultation process, in addition to population growth factors and the rate of take up of new land developments in Palmerston.

Some schools in Palmerston are nearing maximum student enrolment capacity. Projects are underway to provide new modular style classrooms at the Woodroffe and Durack Primary Schools. They are due to be completed in March 2006 and May 2006 respectively. The situation at Bakewell Primary School is being closely monitored to assess the need for a further modular classroom to be added to the school.

Modular classrooms are used to provide additional enrolment capacity in the Northern Territory and elsewhere in Australian, to strategically manage the cycle of fluctuating demand for student places. This option will be considered in Palmerston where schools are nearing capacity.

A concept plan for a senior student wing at Palmerston High School is in the planning phase. A decision to proceed with this will not be made until the community consultation about the middle years is finalised and consideration given to the kind of facilities needed to support the education framework in the Northern Territory in the future.