

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green


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SUBJECT: Narangba Valley State High School; Narangba State School

MEMBER: Mr KING

Narangba Valley State High School; Narangba State School

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.00 pm): At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I again rise seeking action on some issues affecting our local schools. I will start with the buses to get Narangba Valley State High School students home on Wednesdays. I have been asking the transport minister about this for almost 500 days now. Translink has had the proposal from Kangaroo Bus Lines and the school for even longer—a solution put forward at minimal cost to the budget to safely get students home when school finishes early once a week.

Let us talk about the ripple effect of not funding these buses, of not approving the timetable changes. We have the intimidation factor of hundreds of students descending en masse on the shopping centre across the road. It is right behind my office so, trust me, I know. We have the increased shoplifting that the cover of hundreds of kids in a shop at one time allows. We have the inevitable scuffles breaking out between bored, unsupervised students. It is lucky the LNP is not making loitering an adult crime or our jails would be full. These are good kids; they are not bad kids. The numbers make this happen.

To try to counter these problems we now have the local police beat out every other week. These are our awesome local police who could be doing something else if the buses were sorted. Local businesses are having to put on extra staff or security to ward off violence and theft. The businesses who cannot afford to just have to cop the losses. We have the high school administration under pressure to send teachers or executive staff across the road to keep an eye on the kids. That is outside the scope of their roles and potentially endangering their safety. I wonder what the education minister thinks about that one. Perhaps he could ask the transport minister to help sort it out so we can keep staff and students from Narangba Valley State High safe on Wednesdays.

I would also appreciate an update from the education minister on the Narangba State School fence. The first half was delivered under Labor and the rest of the money was committed to, but sadly it is a project that is now languishing under this government. Full fencing for this school, surrounded by busy roads and a rail corridor, will keep students safe and protect the school from the break-ins, vandalism and theft which has sadly become a common occurrence there. This is a good investment, in my book. Finishing the fence would be much cheaper than the constant repairs after vandalism and break-ins.

I want to conclude by pointing out that many of the schools across my electorate are under pressure from population growth. I know that a few that are pushing capacity and I know that there is planning for new schools happening. In the meantime, new families having to travel quite some distance to their nearest state schools deserve the minister's attention, the best opportunities, the safest environments and definitely a bus to get home sooner rather than later.