

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 590
Petition Sponsored by: Mr Evan Mulholland MP
Directed to: Minister for Planning
Tabled on: 14/10/2024

Petition Grievance:

The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the rejection of the proposed establishment of St Joseph's Christian College located at 1585 Mickleham Road, Yuroke VIC 3063. Despite substantial community support and assurances of adherence to the Department of Transport and Planning requirements, the proposal was dismissed without adequate consideration of its potential benefits. This institution would have a positive impact, through tailored curriculum and pedagogy, on the preservation of faith, cultural heritage and the UNESCO listed endangered Assyrian language.

Petition Action:

The Petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to approve the St Joseph's Christian College proposal and reconsider it with due regard to the significant community backing.

Reply:

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan Region for raising this matter on behalf of his constituents.

I acknowledge the need and demand for faith-based schools to support local communities in the outer northern suburbs and across Victoria.

The Victorian Government will continue working in partnership with the Assyrian community to deliver a school for their community.

As this is a live matter before VCAT, it would be inappropriate to provide any further commentary on the matter.

The Victorian Government continues to support faith-based and independent schools, through the \$450 million Building Fund for Non-Government Schools – which helps schools upgrade and expand their facilities, ensuring families have the best learning environments for their children. This fund builds on the \$522 million allocated between 2016-23 that was delivered for the Non-Government Schools Capital Fund, that helped schools add capacity with additional classrooms, upgrade buildings and build new facilities to support students and school communities.



Hon Sonya Kilkeny MP
Minister for Planning

10/11/2024