



EXTRACT FROM
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HANSARD



Mr CARROLL
Niddrie

ADJOURNMENT

Calder Rise Primary School site

Thursday, 8 June 2017

Calder Rise Primary School site

Mr CARROLL (Niddrie) — (12 802) I rise to address a matter for the attention of the Minister for Education. The action I seek is for the minister to join me in a meeting with the mayor and chief executive officer of Brimbank City Council and representatives of the Victorian School Building Authority to discuss the sale of the former Calder Rise Primary School site in Green Gully Road, Keilor.

Calder Rise Primary School closed on 31 December 2009, before my election in March 2012. On two separate occasions the former Calder Rise Primary School site was offered to Brimbank council. The initial offer was made on 19 February 2014, and the council advised that they had no interest. A second offer was made on 2 September 2015, to which the council also responded with no interest. On 25 March 2014 Brimbank council, under the former administrators, passed the following resolution:

That council writes to the Department of Treasury and Finance advising it does not have an interest in acquiring the surplus school sites at the former Calder Rise primary ...

On 26 June 2014 I wrote to the then Liberal Minister for Education outlining the local community's disappointment with the council's decision and seeking clarification of the proceeds of any sale being invested back into the community. I also wrote to the then Minister for Planning on behalf of the Keilor Residents and Ratepayers Association taking up their concerns, in particular about the issue of the Calder Rise site remaining for community use.

Following the election of a democratically elected council in the City of Brimbank in October 2016 there is a new willingness to engage on the issue of the former Calder Rise Primary School site. The site has been identified by the Keilor Football Club and the Keilor Sports Club as being required for the growing AFL Women's league and to cater for growth in children's sport as well as the strong local sporting community that Keilor possesses.

Newly elected Brimbank mayor Cr John Hedditch, in a letter dated 2 May 2017 to the Minister for Education, said:

The Green Gully Road site has enormous potential to contribute to improving open space and recreation opportunities for the local community ...

Council believes it is highly preferable and entirely possible for this valuable public asset to be transformed to meet the existing open space and recreation needs of the local community, and support a range of burgeoning sports that are increasingly attracting the participation of women and children.

I believe with a newly elected council and goodwill from both the council and the state government there is an opportunity for a successful purchase and transfer of the school site to the council.

Under the former administrators Brimbank disposed of the Sunshine library site for \$4.6 million and undertook a controversial sale of three parks, netting over \$8 million. Given the funds reaped by council from the sale of these public assets, I believe they can give serious consideration to purchasing the Calder Rise site, which has been identified by the council and the local community as having strategic value for the community. To this end I urge the Minister for Education to sit down with me, the council and the CEO of the Victorian School Building Authority to give Brimbank City Council a third chance to seize this wonderful opportunity that is before them.