

## Community consultation begins

Community consultation has begun to find the best way to renew and revitalise State schools in Eastern Ipswich as part of a project for Education Queensland's Tomorrow's Schools package. Up to \$75 million is set to be spent on local schools over the next few years.

The consultation is being undertaken by an independent facilitator, Kent

Maddock of Sagacity Consulting.

The process will involve a review of existing facilities and enrolments and seek the community's views on issues, ideas and options for the future of local State schools.

This newsletter is part of the consultation. It contains important information and provides an opportunity for you to tell us your ideas.

## Seven schools involved

There are seven schools in the Eastern Ipswich group.

**Primary schools:** Blackstone, Bundamba, Dinmore, Riverview and Silkstone

**Secondary schools:** Bremer State High School, Bundamba State Secondary College

## State Schools of Tomorrow

The Tomorrow's Schools package is a record \$1 billion investment over five years in Queensland's education system to modernise and build new school facilities across the State. It includes \$850 million for school renewals – the largest one-off investment in education in Queensland's history.

The package has three guiding principles:

- *Enhancing educational opportunities – to enhance students' skills, knowledge and creativity.*
- *Enhancing partnerships with the community – for both educational outcomes and to encourage community use of school facilities.*
- *Enhancing sustainability – for schools to have long term viability and service to their community.*

Rather than looking at individual schools, State Schools of Tomorrow is looking at projects that consider how groups of nearby schools can work together to meet the needs of their local community for generations to come.

## Features in common

Eastern Ipswich schools have several features in common:

- *A group of older schools, many established in the 19th Century*
- *Schools in close proximity*
- *Facilities in need of significant renewal*
- *Enrolments in decline since the 1970s across the group of schools*
- *All schools draw enrolments from the same general area*
- *Significant surplus capacity for new enrolments at most schools*
- *Schools with close links to the community*



## How will the community consultation work?

A community reference group has been established to represent Eastern Ipswich schools. Each school will be represented by its principal and a P&C representative. Others, such as Education Queensland representatives and community organisations, will be invited to attend meetings as observers, and will join discussions as required. It is expected that school nominees will lead and promote discussions within their school communities.

The role of the reference group is to identify and discuss options for Eastern Ipswich schools and sign off on a series of recommendations which will be presented to the Queensland Government for consideration.

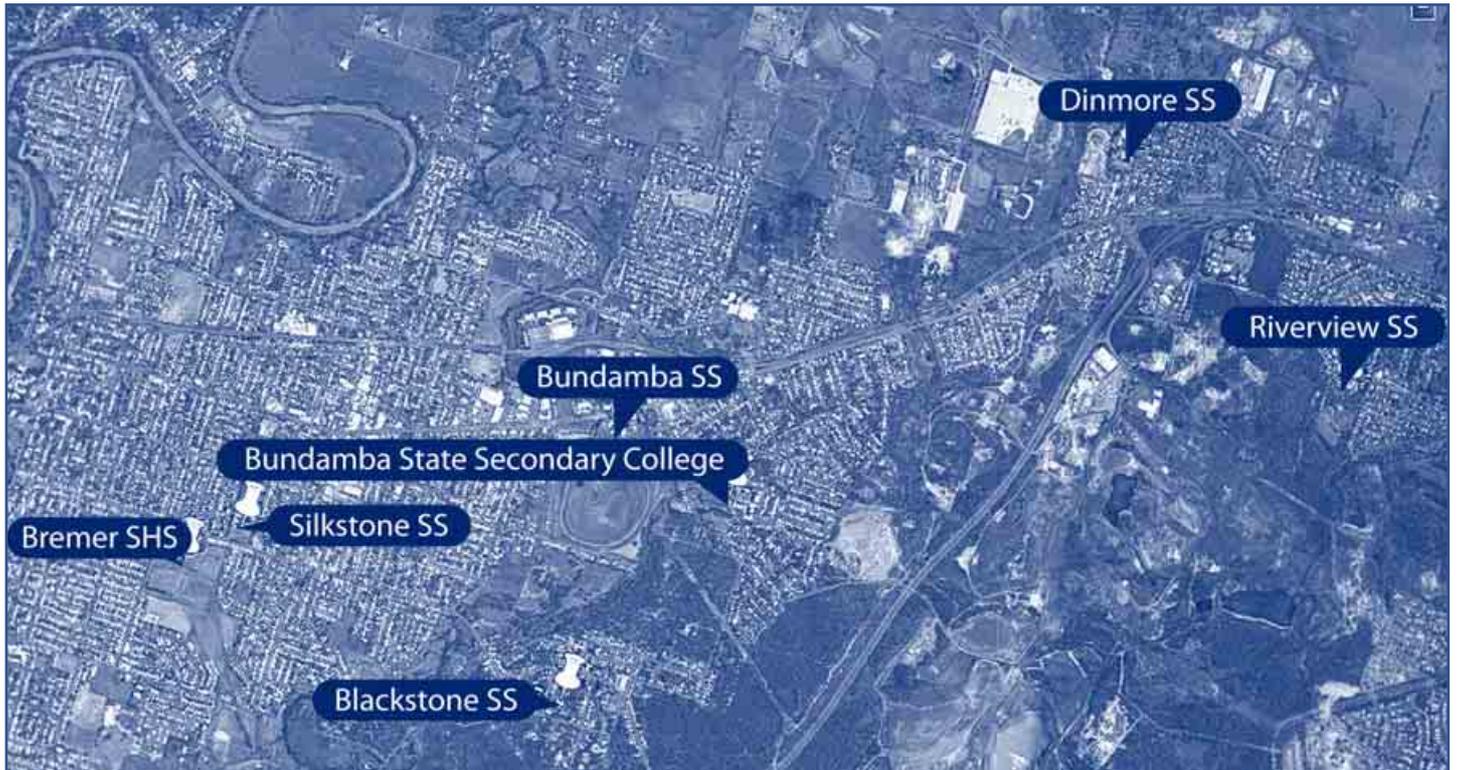
As the consultation continues interested community representatives will be invited to present their views. Although the reference group is not a public forum, the general public will be invited to attend as observers and will be given an opportunity to have their say.

The consultation team will also contact interested stakeholders including education unions, TAFE and other education sector representatives, Indigenous Elders, multi-cultural representatives, employer representatives, local government and community associations. Follow up meetings will occur as needed.

The wider community will be informed through this newsletter, school newsletters, advertisements in the local media, media announcements, shopping centre displays and web-based information. The community will have the opportunity to respond via feedback sheets, submissions, meetings with the consultation team and discussion within school communities (eg P&C meetings).

The consultation is scheduled to continue until later this year with the last reference group meeting expected in November.

# State Schools of Tomorrow



Courtesy: © Google Earth Pro

## Why a group approach?

A group of schools working together can offer a greater range of options to the local community and make the best use of State Government education funding through the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative.

Some schools may specialise to provide a particular subject or curriculum choice, other schools may work together to meet a community education need. Schools may relocate or amalgamate if it is found this better serves the needs of current and future students and the community.

A group of schools promotes a shared long term approach to education.



## Why Eastern Ipswich?

Eastern Ipswich is one of four Round One projects for State Schools of Tomorrow. The area contains some of the oldest schools in Queensland with a long history of service to their communities. Some of the schools' facilities are heritage listed. But with age also comes the recognition that local schools have old facilities in need of significant upgrades to meet future student and community needs.

There are issues for some schools associated with changing traffic patterns, particularly heavy transport traffic, as well as impacts from nearby industrial areas. Bremer State High School also has subsidence issues relating to active or unstable soils.

Declining enrolments over the past 30 years means there are a number of smaller schools close together. The project will ask the community whether there is a better way to organise the area's educational resources.

The project has great potential to improve educational opportunities, enhance student learning, and provide modern facilities similar to those in our new schools.

## A little local history

The area includes the traditional lands of the Jagara people. Ipswich is Queensland's oldest provincial city and contains some of the State's oldest schools. The first European settlement was in the 1840s as part of a convict operated limestone mine. There was considerable growth in the 1870s and 1880s associated with agricultural development and coal mining.

The city continued to develop as a major coal mining and industrial centre well into the mid 20th Century. Ipswich had the State's major railway workshops (employing 2500 people), woollen mills, sawmills, brickworks and metal engineering and foundries.

Although much of its heavy industry base has been in decline over the last generation, Ipswich remains a predominantly industry-focused provincial city and a vital part of the Brisbane-Ipswich industrial and commercial corridor. In recent years there has been an influx of families relocating from Brisbane and elsewhere, attracted by a combination of affordable housing, the desirability of colonial-era housing and lifestyle considerations.

# State Schools of Tomorrow

## School history

Most of the primary schools in the Eastern Ipswich group date back to the 19th Century with Bundamba established in 1873, Silkstone in 1882 (relocated to its present site in 1915), Blackstone in 1887 and Dinmore in 1891. Riverview, the newest primary school, was opened in 1977.

Bremer State High School was established in 1959 while the Bundamba State Secondary College opened in 1970.

Generally enrolments for the area's primary schools peaked in the late 1970s and secondary school enrolments peaked in the mid 1980s.

## Census information

The schools in the Eastern Ipswich cluster cater primarily for the suburbs of Silkstone, Booval, Blackstone, Bundamba, Ebbw Vale, Riverview and Dinmore. Census data for 2006 indicates approximately 16,700 persons resided in this area. The most populous suburb was Bundamba (5,159 persons), followed by Silkstone (3,412 persons), Riverview (3,337 persons), Booval (2540 persons), Dinmore (897 persons), Blackstone (837 persons) and Ebbw Vale (504 persons).

Approximately 15% of population were in the 5-14 year group (corresponding most-

closely to school ages), with Blackstone having the highest proportion of population in this age group (18.6%) and the lowest proportion of the population in this age group in Ebbw Vale (9.7%).

Most people were born in Australia (79.6%) and spoke English at home (88.2%). Approximately 4.7% of residents were of an Indigenous background, with the highest concentrations in Dinmore and Riverview (8.7% and 8.3% of the respective population of these suburbs). The second most common language spoken at home was Samoan (2.9%), with the Samoan speaking community focused on Riverview (9.4% of residents) and Dinmore (6.5%).

About 39% of families in the area were families comprised of couples with children with a further 25% being one parent families. Highest concentrations of one parent families resided in suburbs of Riverview (34%) and Dinmore (30%).

Of the occupied dwellings in 2006 located in this area approximately 31% of these dwellings were fully owned by the



## State school enrolment overview

School	Established	Land Area (Ha)	F: Freehold L: Lease; R: Reserve ;S: State	Capacity 2007	P-12 Enrolment 2007	P-12 Enrolment 2011	Spare Capacity 2007	Spare Capacity 2011	Asset utilisation Rate% 2007	Asset utilisation Rate% 2009	RSN 2006	RSN Attending School 2006 Western Suburbs
Blackstone SS	1887	3.0	F	214	161	159	53	55	68	74	124	59
Bundamba SS	1873	5.3	F	642	462	451	180	191	68	70	556	320
Dinmore SS	1891	2.44	F	262	130	144	132	118	45	55	169	88
Riverview SS	1977	6.59	F	394	247	234	147	160	58	59	323	175
Silkstone SS	1915 (1882)	5.1	F	1024	887	924	137	100	82	90	522	322
Bremer SHS	1959	14.1	F	1491	1227	1297	264	194	82	87	1726	1046
Bundamba State Sec Col	1970	9.1	F	1184	815	718	369	466	68	61	525	379

Note: RSN = Resident Student Numbers. This is the number of school students living in that school's catchment area.

# State Schools of Tomorrow

occupants, a further 31% were in the process of being purchased and 38% were rented. The highest proportion of rented accommodation was in Riverview (49%), followed by Booval (42%) and Dinmore (41%). Of all rented dwellings approximately 30% were State rentals, with the highest concentrations in Riverview where nearly 62% of rented dwellings were State rentals, with the next highest concentration of State rentals in Dinmore (30%).

## A look at options and ideas

The first meeting of the Eastern Ipswich Community Reference Group was held on Wednesday 22 August at Bremer State High School. Among the possible projects identified at the meeting were

- a multi-functional education, health and welfare program targeting safer and better lives for children in the area,
- priorities for numeracy and literacy,
- programs that extended middle and higher achieving students,
- ways in which schools could work more closely together to deliver music, arts, sport, science, maths and other subjects,
- earlier access to vocational training,
- learning support and parent support programs,
- links to TAFE and universities,
- better access to information, communication and design technologies, and
- languages.

The CRG also identified a variety of community, business and government organisations that should be consulted during the project.

The CRG recognised the communication and consultation needs of the local Samoan community and for communication that suited the needs of the local community.

## Further information

A range of information on this project will be progressively added to the State Schools of Tomorrow website [www.education.qld.gov.au/tomorrows-schools](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/tomorrows-schools)

Information will also be provided via the schools involved – check with your local school office or P&C.

Contact the Tomorrow's Schools team on:

Telephone: 3237 0008

Fax: 3247 4035

Feedback can also be provided via [www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au](http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au)

Postal: C/ Education Queensland  
Moreton Region, Attention: John Green,  
PMB No 2 Ipswich Q 4305

Email: [tomorrows-schools@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:tomorrows-schools@deta.qld.gov.au)



## Approx distances between schools in km (direct)

	Blackstone SS							
Blackstone SS		Bundamba SS						
Bundamba SS	1.7		Dinmore SS					
Dinmore SS	4.5	3.3		Riverview SS				
Riverview SS	4.9	4.3	1.9		Silkstone SS			
Silkstone SS	2.1	2.2	5.4	6.3		Bremer SHS		
Bremer SHS	2.4	2.6	5.9	6.8	0.3		Bundamba Sec College	
Bundamba Sec College	1.5	0.75	3.2	4.3	2.7	3.2		



# Feedback Sheet

This feedback sheet is designed to make it easier for you to provide thoughts and ideas to help guide the renewal of schools in the Eastern Ipswich group as part of the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative. All feedback will be logged on a database and assessed, and reported to the project's Community Reference Group.

All feedback will be regarded as confidential unless otherwise specified. The name and contact information is optional – it may allow us to contact you with further information if required.

Please feel free to add additional pages as required.

It would be appreciated if your response could reach us by Friday 21 September. There will be more opportunities for comment later in the project.

- 1. What are the main issues for you regarding State schools in Eastern Ipswich? In particular what are the things that local schools need to do to better serve the needs of students and families in the area?**

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- 2. Are there aspects of the schools and education generally in Eastern Ipswich that you like and would like to see retained? What are they and why are they important?**

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- 3. Are there also aspects of the schools and education generally in this area that could be improved? What are they and how do you think they could be improved?**

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# Feedback Sheet (continued)

## 4. Is there one big issue for you in education? What is it and why?

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### Please indicate the group/s you identify with:

Parent of school child?      yes  no

If **yes**, which school/s attended by your child/ren? If **no**, which school do you identify with?

Blackstone SS  Bundamba SS  Dinmore SS  Riverview SS  Silkstone SS   
Bremer SHS  Bundamba State Secondary College

Another school not on the list

Indigenous community  Vietnamese community  Pan Pacific community

English speaking background

Business community  Teacher at a school above  Teacher in a different area

Eastern Ipswich community member

### Where did you first hear about State Schools of Tomorrow?

My child  School newsletter  Advertisement in newspaper

Eastern Ipswich project newsletter/discussion paper  Shopping centre display

Other parents/community members  Internet  Radio  TV  Letterbox drop

### The following is optional:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Contact telephone numbers: ..... (Day) ..... (AH)

Fax: ..... Email: .....

Please respond by Friday 21 September 2007 and return to your school office or post to C/ Education Queensland Moreton Region, Attention: John Green PMB No 2 Ipswich Q 4305 or Fax: 3247 4035