

BRISBANE STATE HIGH SCHOOL P&C AND COUNCIL JOINT RESPONSE TO PRECINCT SELECTION REPORT

INNER CITY SOUTH STATE SECONDARY COLLEGE

This document has been prepared by the Executive Members of the BSHS P&C and David Gillespie (BSHS School Council Chair) in consultation with the P&C members, the School Council and wider school community (the Respondents). This submission does not necessarily reflect the opinions of all the entire BSHS community.

THE INNER CITY SOUTH STATE SECONDARY COLLEGE (ICSSSC)

On 8 June 2017 the Premier, Deputy Premier, the Minister for Employment and the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (the Minister) announced¹ a plan to:

- *establish a new high school in the inner-south working with the University of Queensland to take enrolment pressure off **Brisbane State High School***
- *support the expansion of **West End State School** to meet enrolment demand*

The government committed funding to deliver the ICSSSC for the **commencement of the 2021 School Year**. The ICSSSC would be designed to accommodate 1,500 secondary school students.

In January 2018, the Department of Education and Training (the Department) completed a draft precinct selection Report (the Report) which evaluated potential locations for the ICSSSC. The Report was open for public comment and this document represents the response of the BSHS P&C and School Council to the Report as well as a commentary on broader issues consistent with the stated aims in establishing the ICSSSC.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Respondents believe that none of the proposed locations is likely to address the Minister's stated purpose in establishing the ICSSSC. This is because the current proposal does not address the short term drivers of student population growth at BSHS.

BSHS is a unique Queensland High School that has historically combined a mixture of local catchment enrolment and meritorious entry for high performing children living outside the catchment. Both methods of entry provide for the diverse culture synonymous with BSHS. You don't need wealth and privilege to attend this school. It is a school that truly levels the playing field and gives its students a chance to be educated in one of the best schools in the state.

The BSHS catchment population is slowly increasing but enrolments from students claiming to live in catchment is increasing at many times that rate. Current catchment enrolment demand at BSHS and WESS is being driven by the desire to attend BSHS rather than by increases in local population. It is enabled by fraudulent exploitation of the local entry criteria by families who either don't live in catchment or who intend to leave as soon as their children are enrolled.

The ICSSSC was presented as a solution for BSHS enrolment growth, however the respondents cannot see how the current proposals would achieve that end in the short term. The only way that can be achieved in the short term is to limit local entry to the school so that it more closely matches the actual resident population of the catchment.

Future catchment enrolment demand at BSHS and WESS will be increasingly driven by population increases on the west end/south Brisbane peninsula. An ICSSSC located at Dutton Park is unlikely to provide appropriate relief to peninsula growth but would provide relief for Woolloongabba growth which is projected to occur outside the current BSHS catchment.

¹ <http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2017/6/8/first-new-state-high-schools-to-be-built-in-innecity-brisbane-since-1963>

Without a local student enrolment cap, the most likely scenario is that BSHS is overwhelmed by true local demand by 2031. An option that would address long term population growth, proposed by the respondents is the development of WESS as a P-12 school and (optionally) that school's management being merged with BSHS.

Locating the ISSSC at Dutton Park could foreseeably achieve the other stated goal of the project, (a high performing school partnered with the nearby University of Queensland). It would also provide population growth capacity to the Woolloongabba growth corridor, but as this is outside the current BSHS catchment, this is unlikely to have any real impact on enrolment demand at BSHS or WESS.

THE PRECINCT SELECTION REPORT

The Report confined itself to evaluation of three potential geographic locations (the Precincts) for the ICSSSC based on a set of selection criteria established by the Department and Building Queensland. The high-level criteria (and weightings) were:

1. Education benefits and outcomes (42.5%)
2. Deliverability and site risks (35%)
3. Social benefits and outcomes (22.5%)

Consistent with the Minister's announcement, the first two (of four) criteria within Item 1 concerned BSHS. They were:

1. THE PRECINCT FACILITATES SUSTAINABLE (LONG TERM) RELIEF TO BRISBANE STATE HIGH SCHOOL (BSHS); AND
2. THE PRECINCT FACILITATES SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM RELIEF TO BSHS

In addition to this a criterion relating to local students was included as part of the third criteria. It said:

3. THE PRECINCT IS, AND WILL REMAIN, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL LOCATED RELATIVE TO LOCAL STUDENT POPULATION

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, DAVIES PARK WAS MOST LIKELY TO SATISFY THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF ESTABLISHING THE ICSSSC BUT COST AND AMENITY FACTORS SIGNIFICANTLY MITIGATED AGAINST A CHOICE IN FAVOUR OF THAT PRECINCT.

Based on the scoring system established in the Report, the Davies Park Location was significantly better (4 versus 2 out of 5) in providing short term relief to BSHS and the other two sites (Kurilpa and Dutton Park) were slightly better (4 versus 3 out of 5) at providing long term relief. Davies Park was also the preferred option on the criteria concerning the local student population (5 versus 4 for Kurilpa and 3 for Dutton Park).

Overall on the questions of relief for BSHS (the primary motivation for the project provided in the announcement) and servicing the needs of the local population, Davies Park scored significantly better (12 v 10 for Kurilpa and 9 for Dutton Park out of 15) than either of the other sites.

Measures on some of the other criteria however overwhelmingly favoured Dutton Park as the preferred site. Examples of heavily weighted criteria in that category include proximity to University of Queensland, delivery time risk associated with current ownership, cost and opportunity cost of the land and the location acting as a catalyst of "urban amenity and value uplift."

RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

THE RESPONDENTS BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED LOCATIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO ADDRESS THE MINISTER'S STATED PURPOSE IN ESTABLISHING THE ISSSC. THIS IS BECAUSE THE CURRENT PROPOSAL DOES NOT ADDRESS THE DRIVERS OF STUDENT POPULATION GROWTH AT BSHS.

THE STATE'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

BSHS IS A UNIQUE QUEENSLAND HIGH SCHOOL THAT HAS HISTORICALLY COMBINED A MIXTURE OF LOCAL CATCHMENT ENROLMENT AND MERITORIOUS ENTRY FOR HIGH PERFORMING CHILDREN LIVING OUTSIDE THE CATCHMENT. BOTH METHODS OF ENTRY PROVIDE FOR THE DIVERSE CULTURE SYNONYMOUS WITH BSHS. YOU DON'T NEED WEALTH AND PRIVILEGE TO ATTEND THIS SCHOOL. IT IS A SCHOOL THAT TRULY LEVELS THE PLAYING FIELD AND GIVES ITS STUDENTS A CHANCE TO BE EDUCATED IN ONE OF THE BEST SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

The school was the first public secondary school in Brisbane and one of the first in the State. BSHS is a shining example that State Education can produce results equal to or in many cases better than, the best of the private system. It is the only government school that is a member of the Great Public Schools Association (GPS) and the Queensland Girls' Secondary Schools Sports Association (QGSSSA).

BSHS regularly tops any assessment of academic capability and regularly outperforms almost all of its private school competitors. In 2017, 59 students received an OP1 and 50.2 per cent received an OP score of between 1 and 5, making it second only to Brisbane Boys Grammar in terms of the percentage of students in that range.

The school consistently performs exceedingly well in the performing arts, with its ensembles regularly represented at state championships.

A wide range of sporting and co-curricular activities are offered, and the school is highly competitive (often winning premierships) against members of the GPS and QGSSA. State High counts (at least) 37 Olympians among its former students.

BSHS ENROLMENT PRESSURE

THE CATCHMENT POPULATION IS SLOWLY INCREASING BUT ENROLMENTS FROM STUDENTS CLAIMING TO LIVE IN CATCHMENT IS INCREASING AT MANY TIMES THAT RATE.

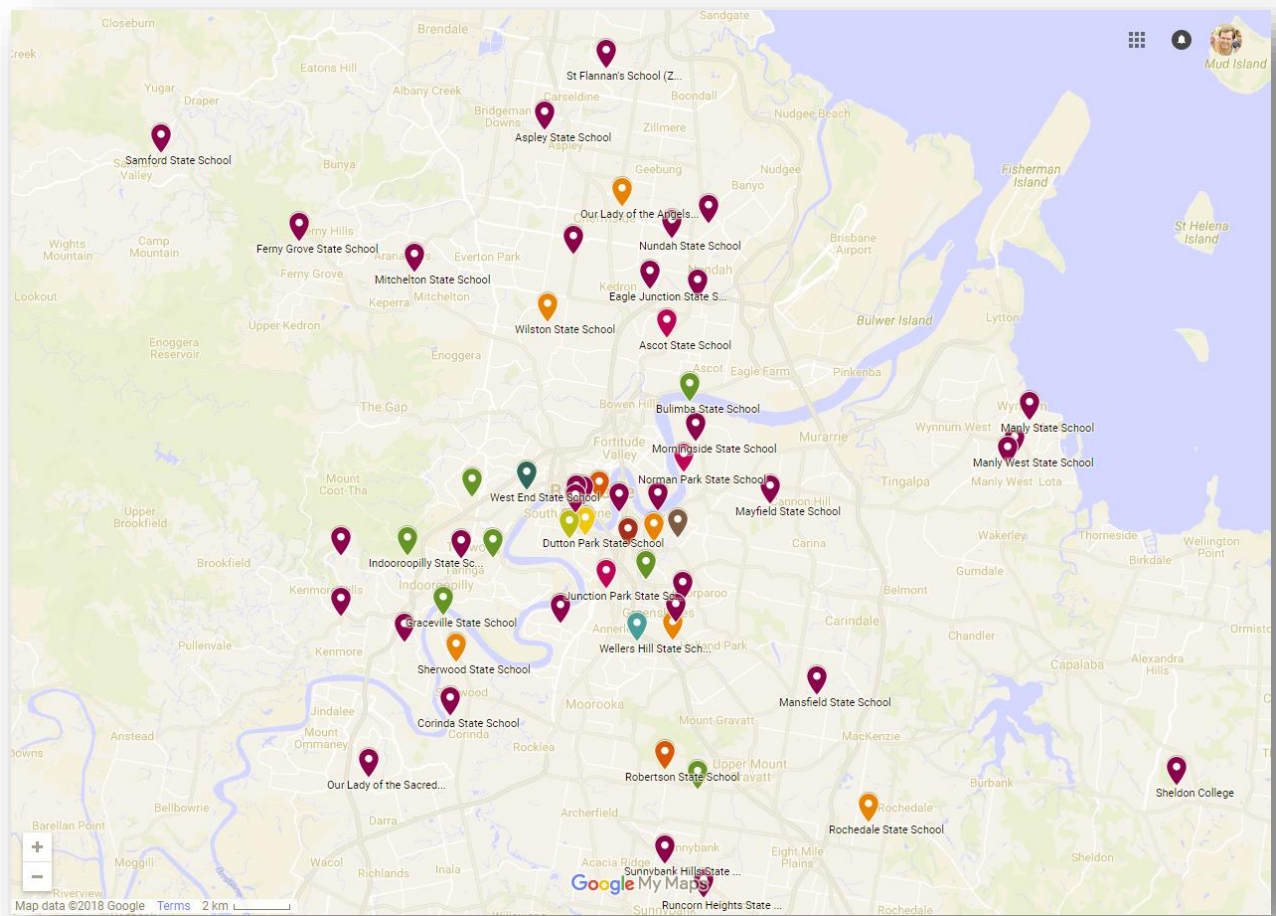
According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics² the population of children aged 10-19 living in the catchment of BSHS increased by just 3% between 2011 and 2015 (**0.6% a year growth**). Based on these numbers, the 103 BSHS students who attended local primary schools (WESS - 72, Dutton Park – 20 and St Ita's - 11) in 2011, should have grown to 107 by 2017.

However, in the 2017 WESS year 6 cohort, there were 160 local intake students alone. This represented a **122% increase** on the 72 WESS students from 2011 (**17.4% a year growth**). Of those 160 students, just 40 had been at WESS since Prep.

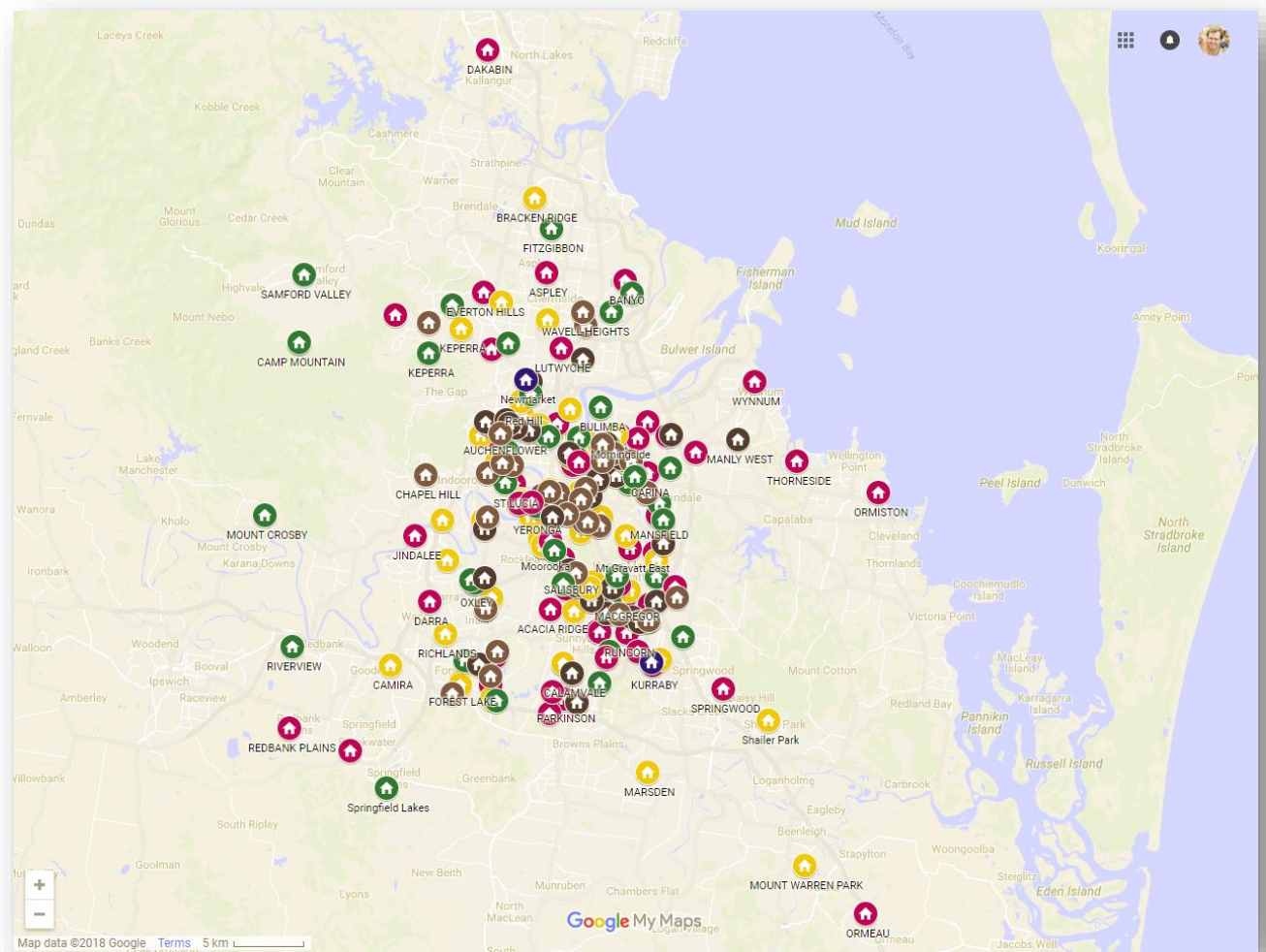
²http://stat.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary®ion=304031096&geoconcept=REGION&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS&datasetLGA=ABS_NRP9_LGA&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS®ionLGA=REGION®ionASGS=REGION

CURRENT CATCHMENT ENROLMENT DEMAND AT BSHS AND WESS IS BEING DRIVEN BY THE DESIRE TO ATTEND BSHS RATHER THAN BY INCREASES IN LOCAL POPULATION. IT IS ENABLED BY FRAUDULENT EXPLOITATION OF THE LOCAL ENTRY CRITERIA BY FAMILIES WHO EITHER DON'T LIVE IN CATCHMENT OR WHO INTEND TO LEAVE AS SOON AS THEIR CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED.

The following map shows the location of the primary school attended last year by 2017 **local** entry students. The colour codes indicate the number of **local** students who attended each school. The pink code at Norman Park SS for example shows that 4 students came from that school and the orange at Robertson SS shows that 7 students came from that school. All these children (totaling over 160 last year) were schooled outside catchment despite claiming a catchment entry place. This map does not show out of catchment merit entries.



The following map shows the **current** address of **local** (catchment entry) students currently enrolled at BSHS. The colour codes indicate the grade of the student living in that suburb. Grades 7 and 8 are coded blue and brown. Grade 9 is green and grades 11 and 12 are coded Yellow and pink. Once again, this is **local (catchment entry) students only** and only those who currently attend the school who have told the school that they have moved.

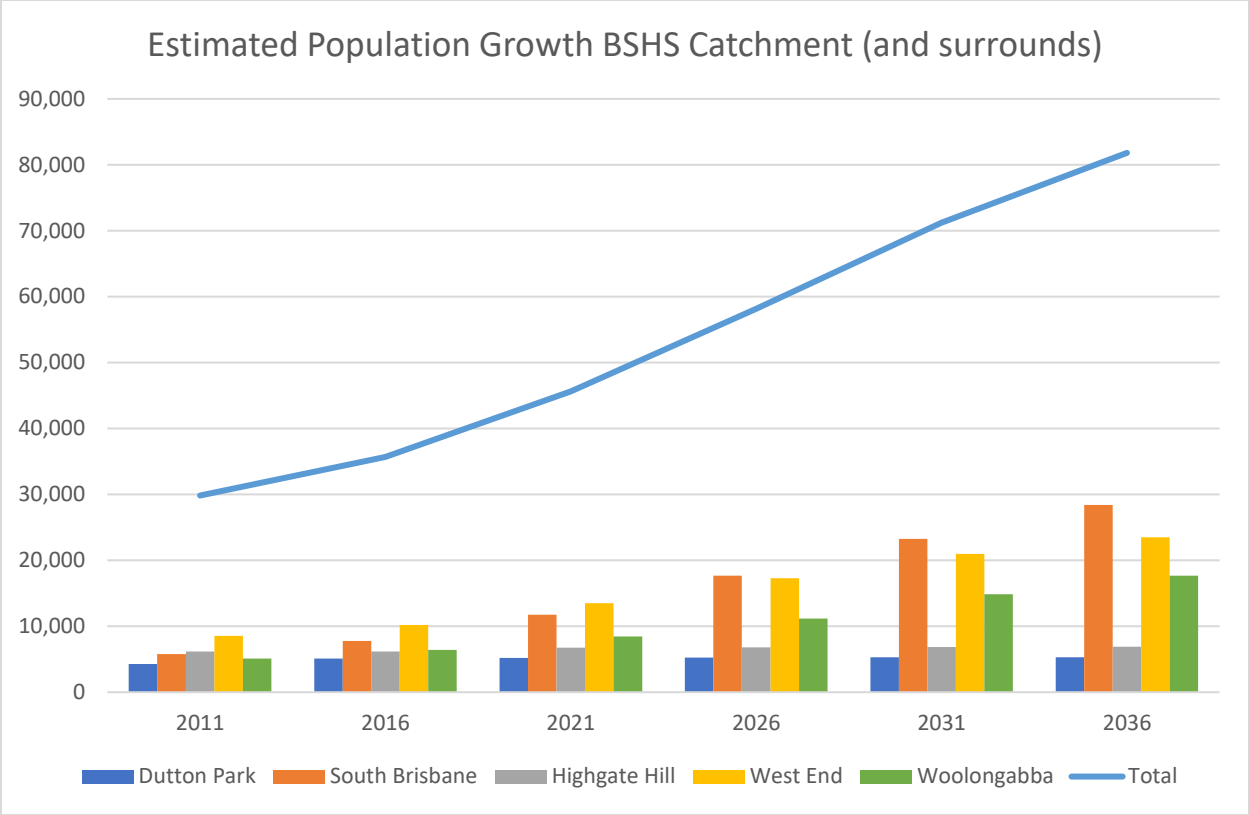


FUTURE CATCHMENT ENROLMENT DEMAND AT BSHS AND WESS WILL BE INCREASINGLY DRIVEN BY POPULATION INCREASES ON THE WEST END/SOUTH BRISBANE PENINSULA.

The Queensland government statistician estimates³ that the population of the BSHS catchment⁴ is likely to double by 2026 and triple by 2036. This is expected to be driven by significant high density dwelling development particularly along the Montague road corridor in the BSHS catchment. The population of part of Woolloongabba near the Dutton Park Precinct (but outside the BSHS catchment) will also increase significantly

³ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/index.php>

⁴ <https://statistics.qgso.qld.gov.au/qld-regional-profiles> - this is an overestimate as Dutton Park and Woolloongabba areas extend outside the current catchment



ISSSC IS NOT A SOLUTION TO BSHS AND WESS ENROLMENT PRESSURE

The driver for recent and current enrolment growth at both BSHS and WESS is not demographic pressure but the performance of BSHS. The driver for future enrolment growth will increasingly be population growth on the peninsula as well as the city-wide desire to attend BSHS. Given the current driver is not related to population growth, there seems little point adding more non-BSHS capacity to the catchment. However, it is clear that future population growth will drive a need for more High School Places on the Peninsula.

The ISSSC was presented as a solution for BSHS enrolment growth, however the respondents cannot see any way that any of the current proposals would achieve that end. However, the Respondents have identified solution components which would address enrolment pressure relief for BSHS (and WESS) and build in capacity to accommodate population growth in the areas where that growth will occur

AN ALTERNATE SOLUTION

The following is a broad outline of a proposed alternate solution. More detail can be required if necessary.

CAP LOCAL ENROLMENT AT BSHS

Capping BSHS local enrolment (and requiring continued residence to remain enrolled) preserves the school’s character and ability to continue to provide merit opportunities for public education students throughout the State. It also means that the enrolment of local students is protected by ensuring that local catchment places only go to people who live in the catchment. Without the cap, locals will shortly be required to participate in a

lottery just to gain entry to the school. The cap would be 250 (a half cohort) and is more than sufficient to protect the places of students who genuinely are local students until at least 2031.

INCREASE THE ENROLMENT CAPACITY OF WESS AND CONVERT INTO P-12 (OPTIONAL)

The Respondents understand that the Department has acquired the site adjacent to WESS (green on the map below) to allow for future enrolment growth. However, most of the current enrolment growth is driven by people wishing to enter BSHS (see analysis above).

If a local enrolment cap is in force at BSHS and a physical capacity cap is enforced at WESS (in line with current actual population of the catchment), then that capacity is unlikely to be required prior to 2031. Half of WESS enrolments occur in grades 4, 5 and 6 in preparation for entry to BSHS. Its current built capacity is 1,000. Without the BSHS driver it should accommodate WESS locals until 2031 (by which time West End population is expected to have doubled). It also clear however that by then population growth on the peninsula will require further high school places. Using the acquired adjacent site (green) to increase the capacity of WESS and converting WESS to a P-12 school will address both needs. It will add a further 200 places a year of local High School Capacity to the Peninsula.



WESS - Yellow, New Site - Green, BSHS - Blue

INVEST IN THE PROVISION OF SPORTING FACILITIES FOR BOTH SCHOOLS

Neither WESS nor BSHS have adequate sporting facilities. BSHS owns 10 hectares of sporting grounds at Carina which are essential to its current sporting merit programs but which could become a significant asset in the delivery of high performance sports education at secondary school level in Queensland. If sufficient infrastructure were invested in those grounds they could serve as a joint sporting facility for both schools and the ISSC (and other public schools nearby to Carina) and act as a significant catalyst to the development of secondary level pathway to the Queensland Academy of Sport and the Australian Institute of Sport.

BUILD ADDITIONAL CAPACITY AT DUTTON PARK AS PROPOSED BUT MERGE WITH DUTTON PARK SS SITE AND CONVERT TO P-12

Similar logic applies to Dutton Park SS as to WESS. Its current capacity is 350, but in conjunction with development of the ISSSC on an adjacent site it could also be increased to levels similar to or exceeding those at WESS P-12.

Doing this at WESS and DPSS, would result in additional local primary school places and additional high school places, capable of servicing expected population growth in Woolloongabba (currently outside the BSHS catchment). All of which is more than sufficient to accommodate the projected (near) tripling of local places required by 2036.

	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
	2018		2021		2036	
BSHS	0	1,600	0	1,600		1,600
DPSS	328	0	328	0	1,200	
WESS	500	0	500	0	1,200	1,200
ISSSC	0	0	0	1,500		1,500
Total	828	1,600	828	3,100	2,400	4,300

Local Places available

BRING ALL THREE SCHOOLS UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF BSHS (OPTIONAL)

BSHS is a highly desired public education high school. Bringing all three campuses under the unified management of BSHS would permit economies of scale which could significantly enhance its ability to deliver outstanding results for significantly more children.