



NORTHCOTE ELECTORATE STATE SCHOOLS ALLIANCE

Dear

The Northcote Electorate encompasses 12 state schools with over 8,000 students. This is expected to grow by around 6%, approaching 10,000 students by 2020. State schools in the Northcote electorate are diverse and inclusive communities and their facilities are used and valued by local neighbourhoods and sporting clubs. They are exceptional places of learning with innovative programs and results that are often above the state average.

HOWEVER, the outstanding work by staff and students is being done in increasingly sub-standard conditions which are not fit for purpose.

DECADES OF NEGLECT by successive state governments and their failure to adequately fund ongoing building plans has resulted in a CRISIS FOR SCHOOLS IN OUR ELECTORATE.

Without clarity and certainty around timeframes for funding, state schools are unable to effectively plan, or become even semi-sustainable in terms of generating their own income through facilities hire and other community arrangements. Principals, staff and school councils spend many hours of valuable time working on applying for funding that should really be a matter of course. Maintenance issues take up much more time than they should, and buildings are often left unsafe and unusable for far longer than necessary due to red tape and bureaucracy.

I would like to hear firm announcements around transparency of needs-based infrastructure funding and, long-term, plans to remove infrastructure funding for schools from the political cycle. How your electorate votes should not determine how good your school buildings are.

Regards,