

16 June 2011

NICK McKIM, MP
Minister for Education and Skills

Schools Considered for Closure

The Minister for Education and Skills, Nick McKim, said today a number of schools have been identified for possible closure as part of the State Government's Renewing Our Education System program.

"I know that the potential closure of schools will come as a shock to many people, but I can reassure everyone that this is a crucial part of renewing Tasmania's education system," Mr McKim said.

"Demographic change will always be a challenge for our schools, and from time to time we need to make tough decisions in the interests of the long term sustainability of our education system.

"In 1995, there were 65,775 students enrolled in Tasmanian Government schools and by 2010 it had declined to 59,488.

"This equates to an average loss of about 420 students per year from Government schools.

"I am aware that many school communities will have strong and passionate arguments to keep their schools open and all these factors will be considered during the consultation process which will begin immediately.

"This is about delivering a high quality education for all Tasmanians into the future.

"Schools are the foundation of our society but we need to renew our public education system and align it to our demographic needs.

“I admit that we have a challenge ahead of us but the demographic reality is that Tasmania has a shrinking and ageing population and we need to look at the long-term picture.

“I will be providing more details on the consultation process tomorrow, but it will be a genuine consultation during which I will meet face-to-face with all potentially affected school associations.”

Mr McKim said that the schools he has been advised by the Department of Education to consider for closure are:

Sandy Bay Infant School
Goodwood Primary School
Dover District High School – grade 4-10
Collinsvale Primary School
Franklin Primary School
Kempton Primary School
Geilston Bay High School
Warrane Primary School
Glenora District High School grade 7-10
Bracknell Primary School
Avoca Primary School
Westbury Primary School
Fingal Campus of St Marys District High School
Mole Creek Primary School
Ringarooma Primary School
Meander Primary School
Sassafras Primary School
Edith Creek Primary School
Stanley Primary School
Sprent Primary School