

## Who to write to?

It has greater impact if a letter is sent individually to one person, not a single letter copied to many.

You can send a similar letter multiple times to different people, try to target the questions.

**Primarily your local representative in the Lower House or the Upper House:**

<http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/parliament/memblast.nsf/wallmembers>.

### You may also contact:

The Hon Mark McGowan, Premier

The Hon Roger Cook, Dep Premier, Minister for Health

The Hon Ben Wyatt, Treasurer

The Hon Sue Ellery, Education Minister

## What to write?

Your personalised individual letter will have the greatest impact. If you use a template, add your own words, concerns and questions to it.

You could start by talking about what you currently value and why.

You could state what your greatest concerns are about the current proposal and the possible impact.

Then **ask a question** and **request a response**.

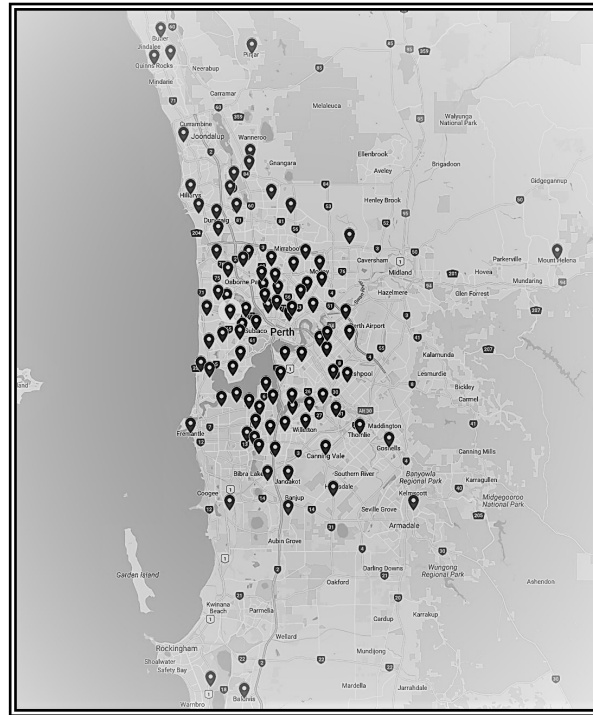
Unemotive language is best, but you can describe personal impact. Above all, stay calm, polite and constructive.

Don't cc us, but it would help if you lodge your letter and any response with us. An email address will be provided on the document at

<https://saveperthmodernschool.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/save-mod.pdf>

## WHO should write letters?

- ⇒ EVERYONE!
- ⇒ Parents, grandparents & friends.
- ⇒ Students - past, present and future.
- ⇒ Any Western Australian who is concerned about the State Government proceeding without consulting the community on their needs, and without releasing any planning or costing information.



**A real representation of the diverse locations Perth Modern School's students come from.**

We need MULTIPLE letters from ALL these areas to their upper and lower house representatives, in order to get our voices heard.

**Please take the time to write and find out for yourself what the government is planning!**

## Call for help...

# Writing Letters

## ...a campaign of stakeholder enquiry

We need your help to find out what the WA Government is planning for our public schools, why and how...

## Because

...the Education Dept website has now been changed to show that:

- ⇒ **Perth Modern School will be WHOLLY local intake from 2020.**
- ⇒ **The new City Beach High School is OFF the agenda.**
- ⇒ **Current students will be relocated to a multi-storey building at the Perth Central Railway Station.**

### **MORE INFORMATION:**

<https://saveperthmodernschool.files.wordpress.com/2017/04/save-mod.pdf>

## What questions to ask?

### Whatever is a burning issue for you!

**New building** – private development, ownership, school tenure, ability for school community to provide extra facilities, location, size, area, layout, facilities that will be provided or not provided, security, access, car parking etc.

**New services** – will existing staff move across, what will be provided, what will not be provided, will the GATE program operate any differently.

**GATE options** for any students who opt out of the new facility, future placements in GATE, future direction of the GATE program, how the large numbers of students currently sitting the GATE exam can be catered for.

**Health and safety** concerns – location, access, sport and recreation, fresh air, mental health, eyesight development, natural light, play areas, impact of the built environment.

**Process** – effective consultation, why drop the existing workable solution reached through consultation and departmental planning processes, cost, timing, claiming a 'mandate', meeting community needs.

**School community**—separation from supportive alumni, new source of scholarships for disadvantaged students

## Why write letters?

- ⇒ For the government to hear concern from multiple people – **the more the better**. They log & count them and are required to respond.
- ⇒ To identify the many concerns people have and put these on the government's radar.
- ⇒ To advocate for the children and families who will be impacted.
- ⇒ To request real consultation.

## A bit of history

Labor has been a strong supporter of Perth Modern School and academically select education. Labor Premier Geoff Gallop re-established the academically select program in WA.

Mr M. McGowan M.P. in his own words: *"Naturally, when my predecessor created a select school, Perth Modern School was an obvious one because it was removed from select status in the early 1960s. It was an obvious one to go back to that if we wanted to create a public school of absolute excellence in Western Australia. It was the natural one to do that. I think it was a good decision. In fact, I would like to create another one in due course, perhaps in the southern suburbs of Perth."* -- [www.parliament.wa.gov.au](http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au)

## What's the current status?

Premier McGowan has identified that Education Central aims to provide a new state-of-the-art home for the academically select cohort. However there has been no consultation on the needs of this community.

The many parent concerns about the proposal have not yet been heard or considered.

Education Minister Ellery is taking steps to embed the plan and timing.

Costs, planning information and details of the proposal have not been released.

No consultation process has been initiated.

## It is proceeding.

## Is Education Central a good use of taxpayer funding?

WA State debt is \$33bn now and rising to \$41bn (p19 Pre-Election Financial Statements). A private developer and leasing will cost more in the long run. The cost of government debt is 3-3.5%. A private developer must pay off debt and also make a significant return.

## Why change the plan?

The Perth Modern School campus is a central location handy to public transport for widely-dispersed staff & students, with space for sports grounds.

City Beach High School was planned and proceeding on a site owned by the government. Consultation had incorporated the community's needs.

## What Labor Policy says...

Labor's own platform supports and upholds our position. It calls for:

- ⇒ respect for the voices of parents and professionals,
- ⇒ meeting the personal, social and intellectual requirements of young adolescents,
- ⇒ no privatisation of public schools,
- ⇒ recognising the importance of sport and recreation,
- ⇒ a commitment to measures that promote physical and social health.

<https://www.walabor.org.au/platform>