

## CURRICULUM

### 1. A3. BLACKALL BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc. recommend to the Department of Education to make the full senior curriculum available to all students, in rural and remote secondary schools, with appropriate technological support and supervision. This will mean that to utilise the available technology, the bandwidth for rural and remote schools will have to be extensively upgraded.”**

Carried

Explanation: Currently a number of secondary schools in rural areas are not able to offer the full senior curriculum to students due to student- teacher ratio guidelines, the lack of qualified teachers and bandwidth limitations for virtual classroom delivery. Students therefore often need to enrol with distance education in order to complete many senior subjects. Students studying subjects via distance education are not allocated an in-school tutor which has an impact on their enthusiasm, commitment and completion of these subjects. The other method of delivery is to create a virtual classroom with remote teacher supervision and the appropriate internet speed is just not accessible. It is essential that the student is highly motivated to complete these subjects in this manner.

This is inequitable when compared with many students in larger, urban schools who have a classroom teacher and peer group to support them through their learning as well as access to high speed internet.

### 2. A4. TAMBO BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc. lobbies the relevant bodies to have primary production included as a compulsory component in the national curriculum.”**

Carried

Explanation: Currently, there are many children who don't know where their food or fiber comes from. As time goes on an understanding of primary production, generally speaking, reduces as more of our population resides away from areas that produce food and fiber. We are witnessing great conflict between our farmers and nonfarmers in regards to vegetation management of our land. If all school students can be given a broad understanding of primary production in the classroom it may help to alleviate some of these issues. This understanding could be delivered via a national curriculum unit that follows the spiral delivery model being built on through year levels to continue understanding growth, interest and enthusiasm for primary production.

### 3. A5. HUGHENDEN BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc. lobby relevant bodies to include a specific unit on Australian Primary Production (i.e. food and fibre) in P-12 curriculum, developed in conjunction with industry experts (e.g. Dept. Agriculture and Fisheries) as opposed to curriculum writers alone.”**

Carried

Explanation: It is becoming increasingly obvious that children, particular in urban areas, are not aware of where their food and fibre is sourced. Even children from the bush are not often exposed to agricultural industries other than their own. Whilst excellent resources are available (e.g. “George The Farmer”, and from industry bodies such as Cotton Australia) they are often not utilized in the classroom as there are no targeted units on agriculture included in the curriculum.

National Soils Advocate Major Michael Jeffries recently presented his policy paper "Restore the soil: Prosper the nation", in which he quoted, "State and territory governments also control the school curricula and one of my key recommendations is for school gardens to be established in every primary and junior high school as a national school garden program, implemented through the Australian curriculum."

An example of how this unit could work include a culmination task where children have to research an industry e.g. beef or cotton and complete an extremely detailed report, including cross curricula tasks such as extrapolating data into graphs and tables.

4. A6. SPRINGSURE ROLLESTON BRANCH

**“That ICPA Qld Inc. continue to carefully monitor the status of the “Safe Schools Coalition” in Qld State and Independent Schools.”**

Carried

Safe Schools has found itself quietly introduced into the Northern Territory. Our branch is worried that something similar could happen in Qld. Safe schools has apparently already been introduced in some suburbs in Brisbane.

We are aware that The Australian Government Funded Safe Schools Coalition Australia program has been completed, though resources will continue to be available on the Student Wellbeing Hub. However, there was a protest on 21st April on the steps of Parliament House Brisbane against Anastasia Palaszczuk’s introduction of banned sexualised Safe School Material into Qld classrooms. Similar rallies in Vic and ACT. This raise concerns as to what the agenda is for this program in Qld schools.