

COMMUNICATIONS

1. **A2.** SPRINGSURE/ROLLESTON BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld Inc. bring to the notice of relevant authorities the inequity of internet access in the bush.”

Carried

Explanation: Rural families rely on the internet to educate their children as well as run their businesses. There is rarely any data left for entertainment or research. Unlike their city counterparts, rural families cannot get unlimited download and some companies (eg. Skymesh, are not allowing families to top up due to their fair use policy.)

2. **A3.** SPRINGSURE/ROLLESTON BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld Inc. lobby relevant authorities to monitor and improve internet quality in small schools.”

Carried

Explanation: Internet reception in some small schools is so unreliable that at times it is unusable. Some small schools have been struggling for years with their internet. Emails, NAPLAN and internet lessons are affected.

3. **S1.** WESTERN DOWNS BRANCH

“That ICPA QLD lobby the Department of Education to ensure all small schools’ access to adequate internet connections is not hindered by outdated services/hardware or contractual restraints between the retail service provider and the department.”

Carried

Explanation: For the past 18 months, Condamine State School students have been disadvantaged with a poor internet connection. The reason for this is the installed ADSL service is outdated in terms of both bandwidth and hardware. The result has been students are not accessing any online lessons such as LOTE or participating in programs such as Mathletics and reading eggs, as only a few examples. It seems a shame that with a 3g/4g tower right beside the school that connectivity and learning have been missed due to contractual restraints and agreements between the provider and the department.

4. **S2.** WESTERN DOWNS BRANCH

“That ICPA QLD lobby the Department of Education to ensure small schools are upgraded to the best internet service in a timely manner whilst connectivity types are rolled out and upgraded in small towns.”

Carried

Explanation: The town of Condamine is mapped for NBN fixed wireless to be installed mid-2019. The schools ageing and inadequate ADSL service is inefficient for the needs of the school and students and the service needs to be upgraded as soon as possible to allow students to access all of their curricula. For 18 months they have been unable to do so. The fear is it will take longer to rectify this situation once the town is upgraded to NBN fixed wireless (mid-year) while the necessary and appropriate procedures and undertakings are met by the department. 18 months without access to curriculum-based lessons in a school because they need to be delivered by the internet that doesn't work is not equitable. To go longer without is unacceptable.