

COMMUNICATIONS

A5. WINTON BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld lobbies the Department of Education to continue providing the increased bandwidth to all Schools of Distance Education as it did during the COVID-19 lockdown period.”

CARRIED

Explanation: At present, Schools of Distance Education have to purchase bandwidth above the allocated amount given by the DoE to provide remote learning from their own school budgets. During the COVID-19 lockdown the Department of Education allocated all schools 50Mbits of bandwidth to provide remote learning. This was a welcome increase and improved the delivery of remote learning, however some SDE's are using the entire 50Mbits to its full extent during their school day and still experiencing congestion on their networks. We ask that the DoE continue to provide sufficient bandwidth to SDE's to support the delivery of remote learning.

S3. NEBO BRANCH

“That ICPA Qld bring to the attention of the Department and relevant authorities the limited and unreliable internet access and mobile phone coverage.”

CARRIED

Explanation: The Valkyrie State School have been notifying the Department since approximately 2015, of their limited internet access, of its slow running speed, and at times no connection available for both internet and phone lines, to no avail.

Student's online lessons of LOTE, and online activities of mathematics, reading eggs and typing tournament are partially disrupted or completely unavailable due to slow/limited internet access.

Our school solely relies on the Telstra mobile 3G/4G phone coverage for internet and telephone. Both have been greatly disrupted and slowed/clogged during the COVID period, and previously due to increasing mining activity in our region. We also had several days in the last 2 terms this year where there was no phone connection and no internet connection, posing a significant health and safety risk should an incident occur. The school is not equipped with alternative means of communication, such as a satellite phone, and are often offline during periods of poor internet connection.

Despite having enough laptops, there is only internet capacity for 5 to be used at one time, so all other students and staff cannot utilise their computer during this time.

In this modern world with such reliability on electronics, particularly telecommunications and internet access, it is simply not good enough that students are missing vital lessons and staff are hindered from their work.

F2. WESTMAR INGLESTONE BRANCH

“That Education Qld should be encouraged to analyse the best connectivity options at small schools, on a place by place basis, to ensure ALL schools are connected to the best available connections at their specific location, regardless of the technology or provider.”

CARRIED

Explanation: Teachers and Principals of small schools can't be expected to be technical advisors and it is imperative that correct advice is given to schools who are having connectivity issues.