

Media Release - Thursday 10 July 2025

School Communities Deserve Facts, Not Fear

The Tasmanian Association of State School Organisations (TASSO) is urging calm and clarity following rising concerns among families from commentary about the future of their local schools during the state election campaign.

TASSO President John Allan has urged caution, citing growing speculation around school closures, assuring families that no such proposal is currently on the table.

“Despite the headlines, we’ve not seen any tabled policy from the major parties to close schools, or otherwise, in this election campaign,” Mr Allan said.

“Previous stances have been that the government does not close schools, but sometimes politically expedient mandates come with unintended consequences – and could result in more zombie schools, take Ouse District School for example, which has no students.”

TASSO is concerned that a lack of clarity is fuelling fear in communities already under pressure, and is calling for respectful, transparent and evidence-based dialogue about Tasmania’s education future.

“We need to avoid having change forced by stealth with communities kept in the dark.” Mr Allan said. “Under state legislation, any reforms or changes to schools must involve the School Association.”

“Our member School Associations are the voice of the school community, and they must be central to any conversations around structural or operational changes.” Mr Allan continued. “We urge them to champion their community, to weigh up whether or not any future proposed changes would provide positive improvements in educational, economic and/or social impact.”

TASSO strongly supports investment in government education and says that the focus should remain on practical policies that improve student outcomes.

“TASSO want to see policy that boosts the right on-the-ground resources in schools,” Mr Allan said.

“Access to allied health services, and learning support is essential. Our families need greater collaboration with their children’s education, engagement with learning beyond written reports and parent teacher conferences. What they don’t need is political distractions and scaremongering.”

TASSO will continue to advocate for transparent decision-making, community involvement, and strengthening Tasmania’s government school system.

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NOTE TO EDITORS

- TASSO has released six education priorities for this election, available at www.tasso.org.au.
- There are currently 66 government schools in Tasmania with fewer than 200 enrolments, 28 with fewer than 100, and 12 with fewer than 50. (*Source: 1305 Student Enrolments by School, with the addition of Ouse District School, which is omitted from the dataset.*)
- A majority of the smallest schools by enrolment are in the electorate of Braddon.
- Two new schools, Brighton High School and Legana Primary School have recently opened in Tasmania.
- The Department of Treasury and Finance's 2024 Population Projections for Tasmania and Local Government Areas project a decline in the number of school-aged children in all but 6 of the 29 local government areas by 2039.
- School Associations are mandated under the Education Act 2016. Section 97 requires the Minister to consult with the relevant School Association, including providing a statement on the likely educational, economic, and social impact of any proposed State school closure.
- A significant round of school consolidations occurred between 2009 and 2014, including:
 - Acton, Upper Burnie, and Brooklyn Primary Schools merging to form Romaine Park Primary
 - Abbottsfield, Mount Faulkner, and Roseneath Primary Schools merging to form Austins Ferry Primary and Windermere Primary
 - Wesley Vale and Moriarty Primary Schools merging to form Andrews Creek Primary
 - Claremont High merging into Montrose Bay High
 - Brent Street School merging into Glenorchy Primary