



26 November 2008

The Hon Verity Firth MP
Minister for Education
Level 31 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Hurlstone Agriculture High School Land Sale

I write in support of Hurlstone Agriculture High School students who strongly oppose the proposal to sell up to 140 hectares of the school's land.

Students tell me that Hurlstone Agriculture High School is over 100 years old. They say it is one of only three agricultural schools in the State and one of only two that takes female students. They inform me that the Government plans to sell up to 140 hectares of the school's 160 hectare site for development as part of the mini-budget process, and that the sell-off is likely to result in the loss of the school's working farm.

Students tell me that Hurlstone Agriculture High School's working farm is a vital tool for their agricultural education and teaches students about important sustainable farming practices. They say it allows students to take farming courses that will help NSW respond to global food shortages, depleting water resources and climate change. Students tell me that the proposal risks the future viability of the school.

I strongly support a NSW agricultural industry that provides Sydney and the wider Australian community with access to fresh, locally grown food. Having a local sustainable farming industry is vital if we are to combat global warming leading to climate change, which is the biggest challenge of our time. I share students' concern that without the working educational farm they will not be able to learn modern land management practices to support sustainable farming.

Could you please withdraw the proposal to sell Hurlstone Agriculture High School land and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

Clover Moore
Member for Sydney

