

RE: USE OF THE BER FUNDS

My impression of the value of the BER funds is that it has allowed the HillSide Christian School to undertake an extensive development program much earlier than otherwise would have been possible. The funds have allowed the school to address its key buildings projects and to therefore offer a higher standard of opportunity for our students. The funds are generational and we probably will never see such an infusion again for many years.

HillSide is building a library and four new classrooms. No structures are being demolished but some old demountables will be moved to new locations. This building program will assist us in accommodating new students in an attractive learning environment. More than that, we will be able to address key issues of deep sewerage, upgrading electricity, overcoming ongoing drainage problems, and mobility around the school (paths and roadways) at the same time. This will 'future proof' the school to some extent by ensuring that future buildings and grounds projects will not need to address the issues of electricity provision, drainage, deep sewerage or access. The funds therefore are useful not just for the currently funded specific projects but other projects that will take place in the future.

It is my belief that, as a locally administered school with a Board that is also located in this school, we have been able to use funds prudently with no waste. As a school principal, I have had many years trying to make \$1.00 into \$1.50 worth of value so no money is being squandered. Rather, it is being paid with close scrutiny. This is because we have ownership of the funds and there is no bureaucracy that is at a distance from the school and also from the coal face of accountability. I am not a builder but engaged project managers to assist as I did architects to ensure that the building design and tender process was conducted properly.

In summary, I am satisfied with the use of the BER funds. I am extremely pleased that we have been able to undertake important and critical projects with the funds and this will be a springboard to the further health and growth of HillSide Christian School.

Thank you for reading my message.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Heslop

Principal

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