



Speech by

PAUL LUCAS, MLA

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Hansard 27 August 1998

DARLING POINT SPECIAL SCHOOL

Mr LUCAS (Lytton—ALP) (2.13 a.m.): Last Thursday, 20 August, I was delighted to host the Minister for Education, the Honourable Dean Wells, to visit the Darling Point Special School within my electorate. I am absolutely delighted that the Minister's first visit to my electorate in his capacity as Minister was to the Darling Point Special School. The Darling Point Special School is somewhat of a local landmark and icon. Its principal, Charmaine Driver, has done a wonderful job. Its patron is the former member for Lytton, the Honourable Tom Burns, who has done a fantastic job there over the years.

Under Charmaine Driver's leadership, the school has gone from 29 students in 1993 to 68 now. That is not bad. In under six years, it has doubled in size. It has a significant vocational education component in its programs for adolescent students with an emphasis on hospitality, horticulture and furniture restoration. The Minister, Mr Burns, other guests and I had a lovely morning tea in the restaurant run by the vocational education students. I noted that the Minister ate heartily.

I was absolutely delighted by the interest the Minister took in the school. Of course, one of the problems with having such a huge increase in its numbers is that the school is becoming somewhat cramped. One would not find a better location for a school. It is on the foreshore of the Esplanade. The tide was in and the view was great. The Minister looked out to the islands in the bay. However, we need extra support in relation to the capital facilities at the school.

The Minister visited the BETA program—the behavioural enhancement through action program—which deals with children with behavioural problems in a very constructive way. The Minister also presented prizes to two students, one for raising a large amount of money in the school fun run and another for doing an excellent job in the QCWA colouring competition. Those kids do not always have it easy. However, they work their guts out, and they have teachers who work their guts out. They deserve every support.

Time expired.