



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Education 2010

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.54 a.m.), by leave: It is an honour to address the House on Wear Wool Day. My father, who at one stage of his career was a western shearer, would have been very proud of the prominence that the Queensland Parliament is giving to this great Australian industry.

I draw the attention of the House to the 2010 education strategy and I draw the attention of members to the progress being made with Queensland State Education 2010. As members may be aware, this is the first time that the purpose and future of education has been so thoroughly canvassed in Queensland.

In the past few weeks, officers from my department have undertaken consultations with principals, teachers, students, parents and members of the community. More than 60 schools have been visited and meetings have been held with parents and school-based staff in each of the 36 districts in the State. Overall, more than 600 meetings have been held. All participants have been asked questions fundamental to the future of education in this State. I am pleased to say that many members of this House have responded to my invitation to be part of the consultations.

There has generally been a positive reaction to the discussion paper and to the issues raised. The department advises me that a number of key themes have emerged during these discussions. These include: the deep commitment of teachers to the welfare of children and to ensuring their full development as participants in society; concern that State Education is recognised for the valuable contribution it makes to the future of individuals and for its underpinning of a fair, just and democratic society; and the need for the system to be more flexible in responding to the diverse needs of different communities in Queensland—from Bamaga to Brisbane.

The project team is now waiting for submissions from Government departments, employers, community groups and teachers. These are all due to reach Education Queensland by 25 June. The department will then look to publish a report on the consultations, preliminary to commencing the development of a strategy in July. I am confident that the process will provide positive directions for State education that reflect the wishes and aspirations of parents, teachers and students.
