



Speech by

Mr T. SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

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CHERMSIDE STATE SCHOOL SITE

Mr SULLIVAN (Chermside—ALP) (6.48 p.m.): Tomorrow, during the day and into the early hours of Friday morning, a significant event will occur in the history of the Chermside area. The original building of the Chermside State School will be relocated to its new home in the proposed Chermside historical precinct.

Built at the turn of the century, this building served families of the Chermside area for decades before the post-war baby boom necessitated a massive building program to cater for the rapidly expanding school population. After some years of uncertainty, the school was closed in 1996 after enrolments had fallen to fewer than 60 students. Overcoming certain difficulties and opposition, the Education Minister of the day, the Liberal Bob Quinn, announced the closure of the school. I supported the Minister in this difficult decision on the proviso that the local community got some return from the school site. I now acknowledge publicly that the Minister and his successor, Labor's Dean Wells, kept that promise, and the Chermside community is ready to benefit greatly from the school closure. I thank departmental officers from Education Queensland and from the Department of Public Works and Housing for their vision, hard work, expertise and cooperation over the past four years in bringing this project to this stage of completion.

The southern half of the school site has been purchased by the Uniting Church of Queensland, and contractors are ready to move on site to start construction of a modern worshipping centre and church complex on the corner of Gympie and Rode Roads. Within 12 months honourable members will see a magnificent structure as they head north along Highway 1 through the wonderful electorate of Chermside.

During daylight hours tomorrow, Bob Mackay from John Mackay Removals will load the two-classroom building on trailers to relocate the structure to the proposed Chermside historical precinct at the eastern end of Banfield Street, on the southern boundary of 7th Brigade Park, adjoining the Kedron-Wavell complex. This building has been given to the local community by the Uniting Church congregations of Chermside and Kedron, which are now a single parish. I thank all members of these congregations for their generosity and foresight in gifting this building to local residents.

A number of talented, generous people have made a contribution to this project so far, and they deserve to be thanked. They include: Reverend Cec Schloss and his wife, Fay; Alan Grummitt and members of various building and finance committees of the Uniting Church; Kedron-Wavell RSL sub-branch president, Jim Whalan, who has rejuvenated the old scout building to become the new Voyager centre, housing not only a Maori cultural group but also local craft activities; Kedron-Wavell Services Club President, Fraser Allom, and Secretary/Manager, Ken Mogg, who provided the administrative and financial back-up and support for this project; Ken Ryley, the Chermside historical project manager, who is an involved member of the community in many ways; Pat O'Keeffe from the 9th Battalion Museum Trustees; Chermside and Districts Historical Society President, Stirling Hinchliffe, and Vice-President, Pastor Adrian Turner; the new consultant from the Queensland Frog Society, Peter Crofts; the Kedron-Wavell hockey club, particularly Eric Jones and Jenny Tidey; Graeme Wakefield, from Westfield Chermside; Federal member of Parliament Wayne Swan, who is providing great help with the Federation Fund applications and the possibility of acquiring the Sandgate drill hall; and my good friend and colleague Councillor Terry Hampson, the councillor for Marchant ward. Many other people from the

community and from these individual groups have helped in some way, and they are to be congratulated for their contribution.

There was some pain involved in the closure of the school after 97 years of operation, but the Chermshire residents and the local district will retain the building that has stood there for nearly 100 years as a facility for historical and community activities. I welcome this change to the area and I commend all involved on the great progress made so far.
