



Speech by

Mr TIM MULHERIN

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Hansard 19 August 1999

PROSERPINE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr MULHERIN (Mackay—ALP) (7.17 p.m.): I draw to the attention of the House the efforts of the teachers, staff and students of the Proserpine State High School and of the local community. These groups are working hard to ensure that students are successful after completing high school.

The Proserpine State High School is both academically and vocationally successful. In 1998, 97% of Year 12 school leavers were employed or undertaking further study. Of all Year 12 students, 37% went to university, 4% went to TAFE, 37% are employed and 19% began apprenticeships. Those are fantastic results.

The school focuses on a number of extra-curricular activities. The school band has over 40 members and is undertaking a two-week tour of Cairns and Kuranda over the September holidays. It is fantastic to see a group of students willing to give up their holidays for such an experience.

Last year, the Proserpine State High School was the highest ranked country school in the State Athletics Championships, beating other large schools from provincial areas. The boys' and girls' opens, and the boys' under-15 Rugby Union teams have all won their respective Mackay and district premierships.

The Proserpine State High School is a part of the Whitsunday school/industry links scheme, which has been set up as an incorporated body for the school, accessing Federal ASTF and other funding sources to provide structured work placements and school-based traineeships for our school.

The school, which is adjacent to the Whitsunday islands and the busy port of Shute Harbour, is planning to introduce a focus on the marine industry as a major employer group, facilitating students to undertake school-based traineeships with host tourist marine operations whilst completing a certificate 2 in national maritime operations. The school's groundbreaking work in marine education has included successfully securing changes to the age of radio operator licence holders approved to facilitate the training of students. This is a community that is attempting to continually improve its operations because it cares about its students.

Time expired.
