



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 24 August 2000

SECONDARY SCHOOLS RENEWAL PROGRAM

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (7.01 p.m.): I rise tonight to commend this Government's Secondary Schools Renewal Program to the House. The implementation of this program, which will see secondary schools built prior to 1975 refurbished and enhanced, is heralding a new age in the provision of education facilities in Queensland communities.

School communities right across the State are joining together to develop a range of outstanding and innovative proposals to enhance the role their schools play in the local community. In years past, the local school played a pivotal role in many of the successes, triumphs and dramas of community life. These valuable community assets were utilised by all members of the community, not just those of school age, for many hours of the day and night. This program championed by the Honourable Minister for Education sees a return to those times.

The proposal submitted by the Beaudesert school community is just such an example of the marvellous community spirit which will result in very real benefits for the young people of Beaudesert and their families. The Beaudesert proposal will see a new focus on academic excellence at the Beaudesert State High School through the provision of information technology, visual and performing arts and agricultural education. The focus of these areas reflects exactly the interests of that community. Were they in Cairns, the proposal would contain different elements.

Secondary Schools Renewal is just one of the wonderful educational programs supported by the Beattie Labor Government. Throughout the State, schools are being refurbished, expanded and developed. In some places we are building new schools—at Forest Lake Varsity College and Woodcrest—in the next school year alone. As the need arises in other communities, the Government will build further new schools. At some time in the future one of those schools will be located in the northern Beaudesert area.

During yesterday's Budget debate both the honourable member for Beaudesert and I spoke of this possibility. I said that demographic projections did not show the need for a new school in the next couple of years. My comments were based on advice that I had received some time back. Given my interest in the topic of new schools, I had one of a series of regular meetings this morning where I was provided with new advice, which is that a new school will be opened in the next few years.

Time expired.
