



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 4 October 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Secondary Schools Renewal Program

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (10.15 a.m.), by leave: This Government has already made significant reforms of and investment in our public education system—what is taught in our classrooms and how it is taught—but we must also invest in the bricks and mortar of our school system. Our Secondary Schools Renewal Program does just that. At the end of last year, \$114m was allocated to a new initiative by this Government—the Secondary Schools Renewal Program.

As members would be aware, many of our State's secondary schools were built before 1975, and their facilities are ageing. More significantly, many of the facilities do not meet the needs of contemporary curriculum and modern teaching methods, frequently frustrating the efforts of school communities to provide the best possible pathways and programs for students.

The Secondary Schools Renewal Program is an innovative and dynamic program that has as its major objective to educationally reposition Queensland's State schools for the 21st century. To support this objective, \$114m has been allocated over the next three years to support secondary schools in rebuilding and refurbishing facilities. In response to this initiative, schools across the State have developed innovative education programs that have generated an excitement in school communities about the potential of their educational future.

I will give an example from one of the schools in phase 1 of the program. Cavendish Road State High School is set to create an Australian first with plans for a state-of-the-art bioscience and human movements complex. The plan includes a 200-seat auditorium, biotechnology laboratories, a kinesiology laboratory, gymnasium, computer rooms and commercial standard sports facilities.

The school's focus area in the curriculum area of bioscience, human movements and sport is aligned with Griffith University, University of Queensland and South Bank TAFE to develop accredited courses in the fields of biotechnology, science, sports medicine, human movement, physiotherapy, nutrition and administration. The new curriculum and facilities will provide tertiary and career pathways previously unheard of in an Australian school. Construction of the new facilities at Cavendish Road will commence early in the new year and will be completed for the start of the 2002 school year. The honourable Minister for Fair Trading and the honourable member for Greenslopes will be there to see it all happen. Eight schools are in phase 1 and the Cavendish Road construction is about to commence.

Opposition members: Sit down.

Mr WELLS: Do members opposite not want to hear about schools? Honourable members opposite would perhaps like it put on record that they did not want to hear the latest that is happening in their schools. The State school system of Queensland is the system which is run by this Government and administered by this Parliament. If honourable members opposite do not want to hear about what the kids of Queensland—our kids—are doing in their education system, then they have their priorities completely wrong.

Twenty-two schools from Cairns to Palm Beach/Currumbin have been included in phase 2 of the program, and planning for construction has commenced in many of these schools. Communications and information technology is a very popular focus area for a number of schools. Facilities are being planned to provide technology buildings, computer-aided design and graphic design rooms and

multimedia resource rooms, and provision is being made for virtual classrooms. Pine Rivers State High School, Bremer State High School—

Mr Hamill: A good school.

Mr WELLS: I note the Treasurer's comment. Bundaberg State High School, Gladstone State High School, Nambour State High School and Mackay State High School are some of the phase 2 schools that are moving strongly in this direction. A number of these phase 2 schools will commence construction next year and will be ready for the start of the 2002 school year.

A further eight schools have been selected in phase 3 of the program and these schools are currently preparing a comprehensive partnership agreement outlining their planning to deliver new curriculum and develop new pathways for their students which will be supported by state-of-the-art facilities. Secondary Schools Renewal is an innovative and dynamic program that is a major contributor to the Beattie Government's Smart State objectives and our 2010 strategy for Queensland State education.