



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard 7 September 2000

MACKAY; SUGAR INDUSTRY

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Education) (6.13 p.m.): I move the following amendment—

"Delete all words after 'That' and insert the following—

'this House acknowledges the commitment of the Beattie Labor Government to regional and rural Queensland and in particular the capital works budget for the Mackay region which this year totalled over \$217m dollars.'

The Beattie Labor Government is spending serious money on improving and building new educational facilities in Mackay. My department is providing more classrooms, amenities, staged development and infrastructure work at a total cost of more than \$5m in this financial year alone. At Eimeo Road State School we have begun the Stage 1 redevelopment of the site—the construction of an administration block, classroom blocks, amenities block, covered play area and car park. This is currently under construction at a cost of \$2.6m. Stage 2, which is the construction of the second unit of the preschool, is currently in the planning stage and is estimated to cost \$700,000.

At Glenella State School construction of the new preschool is to proceed this financial year. This is Stage 1 of the master plan for the site and is estimated to cost more than half a million dollars. At Hampden State School we are constructing a replacement amenities block. This is under construction at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars. At Mirani State School we are also constructing a replacement amenities block. This is in the planning stage and will go to construction later this year at an estimated cost of almost \$300,000. At Eton State School we are providing an additional two classrooms to meet enrolment growth at a cost of \$250,000.

At Marian State School we are also providing an additional two classrooms to meet enrolment growth at a cost of \$250,000. At Victoria Park State School we are providing additional classrooms to meet enrolment growth at a cost of \$160,000. At Mackay North State School we are installing an electronic security system at a cost of \$38,000. At Pioneer State High School we have replaced rusted roof purlins in the covered area at a cost of \$60,000.

Mr Mulherin: The member for Mirani never did anything about that.

Mr WELLS: Yes, the member for Mirani never did anything whatsoever about that. Indeed, it was necessary for the member for Mirani to be informed about it.

Mr Malone: We expected you to fix the roofs up like you did with Finch Hatton.

Mr WELLS: I am terribly sorry to interrupt the member for Mirani during the speech he is making. However, I would point out that he did not have enough material to fill up his own 10 minutes in the debate. He should not try to poach some of my time. As they say on the ads: wait, there's more. The installation of airconditioning under this year's round of Cooler Schools Program is about to begin. Airconditioning will be installed in 28 schools in the Mackay region at an estimated cost of \$7.7m. The elements of the program include the completion of the installation of airconditioning at full State cost in resource centres—libraries—in all schools in the area. This is estimated to cost more than \$1m. Each school site will require some upgrade to their electrical system to cater for the operation of the airconditioning system. This is estimated to cost \$2m. The subsidy component of the project that allows

parents and citizens associations to access a State Government subsidy on the cost of installing airconditioning in classrooms is estimated to cost almost \$5m. But there is still more!

This Government has honoured its commitment to the first ever purpose-built regional conservatorium in Australia. I acknowledge the long representations of the member for Mackay towards the establishment of that superb conservatorium. In 1998, this Government made an undertaking to commit \$3m to the new building. That commitment has now been honoured. After full investigation, the new auditorium will be located at the university campus of the Central Queensland University. I have announced a number of other planning projects, including the fact that Mackay State High School and Mackay North State High School will both receive \$3m each through the Secondary Schools Renewal Program—\$3m to each of those schools.

The Government is planning a new school at Eimeo, which is north of Mackay. It is planned to open in 2002 or 2003, depending on the outcome of the current public consultation process. The estimated cost of Stage 1 is \$10m. The approved community consultation is under way. Public meetings have been held with the Eimeo Road school community, which 80 people attended, and with Bucasia, which 30 people attended. Also, staff at Pioneer State High School and Mackay North State High School will be consulted, as will representatives of local indigenous communities. More meetings are to be held with staff and with P & Cs. By the end of this year, the community consultation should recommend to me a preferred option of the type of school and most appropriate opening date. This Government is doing lots.

Time expired.
