



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard 31 October 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Triple R School Maintenance Program

Hon. A. M. BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Minister for Education) (9.48 a.m.), by leave: I share the Premier's enthusiasm for announcing the delivery of election commitments, and in that regard I am pleased to inform the House of more than \$11.3 million for 194 state schools under the second round of the state government's Triple R school maintenance program. The 194 schools are from right across Queensland, including Rockhampton, Redlands, Tablelands, Gladstone, Darling Downs and Bundamba, to name just a few. This delivers, as I said, on a Beattie government election commitment to spend \$50 million over three years on the Triple R repainting, reroofing and water reticulation program.

\$16.7 million will be injected into our schools under the program this financial year, including approximately \$1.3 million for non-government schools. Over the life of this program, more than two-thirds of Queensland state schools will benefit from improved school environments, restored and preserved buildings and reduced potential health risks. The money for this program is a welcome boost for these schools, the appearance of which will now reflect the high standard of education delivered in their classrooms.

Of course, maintenance is about much more than simple appearance. A leaking roof or a blocked toilet can pose significant health risks, and delays in fixing such problems can have an impact on learning and school environments. The exact start dates for the work in this round of the program will be negotiated with each school to ensure minimal disruption to normal school routines. Education Queensland is working collaboratively with Q-Build to program the work, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank not only the Minister for Public Works but his officers for their enthusiastic support for this important program.

These latest works follow the announcement of more than \$3 million in projects in July this year for 31 schools. Triple R complements existing school maintenance programs and will be coordinated with other Education Queensland maintenance and capital works to provide a cost-effective and integrated approach. A Smart State needs smart facilities, and that is what the Triple R maintenance program is helping to deliver.
