



Speech by

**Mr N. ROBERTS**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Hansard 7 August 2001

### **BANYO P-12 SCHOOL**

**Mr NEIL ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.16 p.m.): I am pleased to report further on the announcement by Education Minister, Anna Bligh, of \$8.8 million to amalgamate Nudgee State Primary School and Banyo High School into a new preschool to year 12 campus. The co-location of both schools onto the grounds of Banyo State High School will provide a modern new junior school and new and refurbished buildings for the middle and senior subschools to be established on the site. The junior school will cater for preschool to year 5; the middle school from years 6 to 9; and the senior school from years 10 to 12.

I am pleased that a feature of the new school will be a 300-seat performing arts centre, which will provide major benefits to students and the local community. This decision is the result of overwhelming support from the Banyo-Nudgee community. I take this opportunity of thanking the minister and the community for its support and patience. I particularly thank the local project working party.

I recognise the considerable efforts and support for this project from former District Director, Tom Mould and current District Director David Manttan; former Principals, Ian Crabb and John Fitzgerald; current Principal, Greg McKittrick; Deputy, Leah Richards; Principal of Nudgee Primary, John Swan; Deputy, Kylie Sheehan; staff and community representatives Bob Hutchings, Donna Baker, Dawn Richards, Jill Antuar, Dawn Beitzel, Cindy Gerhart, Lee Scott, Ann Perkins, Kim Guymer, Morgan Reeder; and Australian Catholic University representative, Richard Clifford.

The Banyo-Nudgee area is experiencing a community renewal based on its educational facilities. This \$8.8 million investment in our new P-12 school is complemented by a \$6 million state government investment in the relocation of the Australian Catholic University to Banyo in 2003. It is hoped that stage 1 of the new school will be completed in time for the 2003 school year, with all levels of students accommodated on the new site by 2004.

Both developments cement Banyo-Nudgee's future by creating an exciting, integrated educational precinct in the area. This is good for local families and good for local businesses. Children and students in the area will have the advantage of being able to attend kindergarten, preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary education all within walking distance of their homes.

It is important for local families to know that full primary and secondary education will continue to be provided at both Nudgee Primary and Banyo State High Schools during the transition period for the new school. We also hope to establish strong and constructive links with local feeder schools Virginia, Northgate and St Pius Primary Schools to ensure that students wishing to continue their secondary education at Banyo receive the maximum advantage.

There is a lot of creative energy and a lot of good ideas that we need to harness through ongoing community consultation on the new facilities and curriculum for the new school. This is a very strong family-orientated community. And I look forward to working with local residents and the department to implement this exciting initiative.

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