



Speech by

BONNY BARRY

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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PINE RIVERS STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Ms BARRY (Aspley—ALP) (1.51 a.m.): Pine Rivers State High School entered a new technological era recently with the opening of its \$1.8 million multimedia centre. I represented the Education Minister, Anna Bligh, at the opening and said at the time that the multimedia centre is a direct investment in the potential of students to capitalise on the knowledge revolution. The multimedia centre includes an airconditioned auditorium with seating for 200 that can be converted into three general learning areas, a foyer, another four general learning areas, an information technology lab, a staffroom, toilets and a landscaped entrance area—all part of the high-tech centre.

As the state member for Aspley and as a parent of two sons who are students at the school, I am enormously proud of the achievements of the school community in this project and of the commitment by the state government to funding this initiative. When the state government introduced the secondary schools renewal initiative in late 1999, it was always its intention to do more than just patch and paint its older state high schools. Certainly one of the initiative's aims was to physically revamp those schools. But its main goal was to reinvigorate state secondary school education in Queensland.

The Secondary Schools Renewal Program is an opportunity for schools to go back to the drawing board and identify their future educational strategic direction. Schools such as Pine Rivers have seized the tremendous opportunity that the initiative presents to go back to their communities and ask, 'What do our students need to embrace the future?' It is clear from what we see at Pine Rivers that there is a commitment to helping young people develop very practical, real-world skills and qualifications so that they leave school with a very positive future ahead of them.

This is an extraordinary school achieving outstanding results in all areas of school life. Its achievements in helping students make the transition from school to work deserve special mention. Many of the students have been placed in jobs through the school's involvement in the Jobs Pathway Program and the Pine Shire's industry schools link.

Information technology for students is a high priority for the school. As well as this impressive \$1.8 million multimedia centre, other improvements have included a digital imaging and animation centre, new computer pods and rooms, upgrades to the existing computer facilities, a computer training area, and the entire infrastructure that goes with such a big IT upgrade. The school has also remodelled its student support centre. The state government is proud to have invested a total of \$3.3 million in the multimedia centre and other refurbishments. I am sure members will agree with me that it has been money well spent.

I would especially like to thank the school's students and staff, in particular the principal, Janelle Deakin, and its ever hardworking parents and citizens association, in particular Bob McCallister, because their efforts have been gigantic. I say thanks to those people on behalf of our children of today and in the future. I also thank the Secondary Schools Renewal Program director, Ralph Took; the manager, Bill Cunningham; the project manager, Shaun Clough; builders Richard Packer Constructions, and architects Michael Michaux. Finally, I congratulate Pine Rivers State High School on entering this new chapter in its history.