



Speech by

Lesley Clark

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Hansard Tuesday, 23 November 2004

SMITHFIELD STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Dr LESLEY CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): Smithfield State High School, on the Marlin Coast north of Cairns, embodies the Smart State vision for Queensland. This school is a centre of excellence for science, mathematics and technology, and its innovative programs have gained it a place in the *Australian* newspaper's top 10 best schools of the nation for 2004. This latest accolade follows several years of award-winning performances at both state and national levels in the areas of information technology, multimedia and broadcasting studies.

The success of Smithfield State High School and its students include Building Youth Technology Excellence Awards winners; Queensland Schools Showcase Excellence Award winner; GIDGITS Great Ideas Competition winner; an engineering technology course launched with shipbuilder NQEA; Women in Technology Awards winner; Girls in Technology Dream Career awards winner; Digital Expo Award winner; first Australian high school to introduce Certificate IV in Interactive Multimedia; first Queensland school to offer a radio broadcasting production course; lucrative sponsorship including scholarships and equipment with global IT giants Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and NEC; and year 12 students completing JCU courses in journalism.

These achievements have been fostered by the leadership of principal Larry Gallagher, who turned the school from run-of-the-mill to a standout success in his 11 years at the helm. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with Larry over that time and support the school in its endeavours. When he retires next year, he will leave a proud legacy of innovation and excellence that has put Smithfield State High School on the map. I wish both Larry and his wife, Barbara, well in their retirement to the Tablelands, from where I am sure he will continue to follow the ongoing success of the school he nurtured so well.