



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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YEPPOON STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (10.06 p.m.): I trust that all members of this House know of Education Queensland's Fanfare competition. Recently, the 2004 competition was completed. I wish to mention the achievements of Yeppoon State High School in the finals and some other achievements of that school.

Fanfare is a competition between state schools for concert bands. Despite any suggestions from the federal government about a lack of quality education or values in our public schools, the music that is produced by most of these schools is superb. The students take great pride in their instruments, their band, each other and their school.

Before and since my election I, along with a lot of other people, have had much pleasure in being entertained by the Yeppoon State High School concert band and its big band which undertake public performances. The Capricorn coast has a wide range of incomes and Yeppoon State High School has students from many families who struggle to provide their children with an education, let alone the extra cost of instruments and uniforms, but who persist because of the quality of teaching and the dedication of the teachers and students.

This was very evident when I attended the regional finals of Fanfare in Yeppoon where the Yeppoon State High School band won through to the state semi-finals which it attended two weeks ago. The work and professionalism of these students saw them among the five finalists for the whole state, which included two large high schools from south-east Queensland. Sadly, they were not the overall winners. That honour went to Cairns. But the attitude of the students and their behaviour was impeccable and should be a source of great pride to all teachers, parents and students of Yeppoon State High School.

As the local member, I have heard criticism of our public high school, but every contact that I have with any parent, student or teacher makes me proud to represent the many diverse families who are unable to meet the cost of private schooling but rely on good quality public schooling and are also able to promote a love of music and other fine arts, giving real value to their education. As well as the success in the Fanfare competition with its concert band, another group of students also recently made good use of an environmental grant and produced a DVD entitled *Sweet Water Dreaming* which dealt with the impact of litter on local creeks and also the Barrier Reef. What was most satisfying about this production was that it was undertaken by some students who may have been classed as underachievers. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy attended the launch at Yeppoon State High School and complimented the high quality of this production.

I am pleased that our government has funded major building upgrades at the Yeppoon State High School which will ensure that the school continues to provide high-quality education for its students and remains a real credit to our community and the teachers who work so hard in the provision of that education. Well done, Yeppoon State High School!