



Speech by

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BENOWA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (5.30 pm): I rise in this place this evening to place on public record the achievements of a fine school in my electorate that has achieved great things since parliament last sat. That school is the Benowa State High School, which achieved some fantastic results in the end-of-year results and OP rankings and looks to be moving on in leaps and bounds this year. I was fortunate enough to attend the presentation of badges for the senior students on 14 February. The school is a credit to the principal, Mark Rickard, and all of his staff who preside over a school of exceptional students and such a diverse range of subjects and programs to attract students of all talents and of all ambitions. The slogan that Mr Rickard has brought to the school is: many pathways, no limits. It is certainly great to see that so many students with diverse backgrounds and interests are being well catered for at that school.

For example, one of the presentation ceremonies was for scholarships. There were five scholarship recipients for academic immersion, there were three scholarships for sport and there were three scholarships presented for arts. I congratulate all of those students who received scholarships and wish them all the best at this fine institution.

I congratulate the captains for 2005, Hayley Chapman and John Picariello, and the vice-captains, Brent Mills and Grace Martin. I know that the school is very keen to give these students the help that they need and provides them with a huge level of access to teachers and administration staff. In fact, the students sit on committees that teachers are on as a way of integrating them in the process of the administration of the school. Mr Rickard and his administration and department heads are to be commended on this. I encourage other schools that do not have this initiative in place to adopt it as a way of grooming the leaders of their schools for future leadership roles and as a way of keeping in touch with the needs of students.

The school should be very proud of its achievements. Last year Benowa State High School was the third best performing school on the Gold Coast. This is a remarkable achievement. It is a credit to the staff at the school who have succeeded in achieving this result and have done so on a relatively tight budget and with limited resources. There are also high expectations that this year's year 12 students will achieve a similar result. I wish them all the best in their studies.

I must also say that it is wonderful to go to Benowa State High and see the multicultural atmosphere that is truly indicative of the Gold Coast today. The school provides students with a well-adjusted academic program and the students are exposed to the experiences and stories of students from around the world. They have a great French immersion program and look forward to the construction of a dedicated French immersion building. Once again, I congratulate the school. If there is anything I can do for the school in the future, I am always available.