



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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BENOWA STATE HIGH SCHOOL; MEALS ON WHEELS

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (9.12 pm): I rise to applaud the great ongoing work of Benowa State High School students and, in particular, the arts in which they have continued to excel this year. At the 2005 Gold Coast Eisteddfod held in August this year, Benowa State High School took out the most outstanding secondary school trophy which is awarded to the school with the highest aggregate score across all categories at the eisteddfod. Congratulations also go to Benowa Primary School for winning best Gold Coast primary school.

This achievement is put into perspective when we realise that the Gold Coast Eisteddfod is the largest of its kind in Australia. The disappointing point is that in spite of all the hard work being done by the enthusiastic staff of Benowa State High School and all of the great performances being turned in by the students, they are yet to receive recognition in the form of funding from the state government to assist in building a new performing arts centre. On 5 October the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing made a point of mentioning during the Rockhampton regional parliament that the state government has financed two \$5 million projects in the last four years to build a performing arts centre at the Rockhampton State High School and a fine arts centre at the Rockhampton North State High School.

Mr Lawlor: You're the one who didn't want to go.

Mr LANGBROEK: I had a great time in Rockhampton. I love everything about the place.

Mr Lawlor: And you enjoyed yourself.

Mr LANGBROEK: I did. I had a wonderful time.

Mr Schwarten interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I am happy about Rocky getting it. I would just like some on the Gold Coast. While I do not harbour any intentions of a regional parliament ever being held on the Gold Coast, I see no reason why a regional parliament would need to come to town in order for the Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts to look at the great record of the Benowa State High School in the area of the arts. Benowa State High School is crying out for a performing arts centre. It seems only fair that if Rockhampton can have two arts centres Benowa, with its track record of excellence in the arts, can have one for the Gold Coast.

I would also like to briefly make mention of the pleasure I had in assisting Broadbeach Meals on Wheels with its food delivery run recently. This great community service is provided by local volunteers. I went on a run with Brian and Helen throughout Surfers Paradise. It was very interesting. I met a lot of old friends who were being assisted by the Meals on Wheels program. It ensures that elderly members of the community get good food at a reasonable price. For just \$5.60 recipients of Meals on Wheels get a meal, dessert and some fruit juice. The state government gives recipients a \$1.80 subsidy towards their meals—a subsidy which, while only small, provides great assistance to elderly Queenslanders.

Meals on Wheels was introduced in Victoria in 1952 to enable people to be independent and remain in their own homes for longer. Community services such as Meals on Wheels offer support in conjunction with Home and Community Care, the largest government program supporting clients in their own homes. It was a very worthy day and a worthy group of volunteers. I commend all their efforts and I enjoyed the day.