



Speech by

Dr Bruce Flegg

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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MOGGILL ELECTORATE, STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Dr FLEGG (Moggill—Lib) (9.09 pm): In my local area of Mount Crosby and Karalee there is a 30-kilometre stretch between Kenmore and Ipswich where this government provides no secondary school. We have had a debate in that local area because this government chose to exclude that area from its traditional high school at Kenmore, when in fact this area does not have a local high school. There are 1,300 students at the two local state schools in Karalee and Mount Crosby, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics tells us that fewer than two-thirds of high school students in the area go to a state school. So in the local area of those two primary schools alone, 2,000 primary school students are now excluded from attending Kenmore State High School.

But there is an even more remarkable figure—that is, in the state of Queensland, 64 per cent of students attend a state high school. In this area, and it is not an affluent area and much of it is in the Ipswich shire, only 40 per cent attend a state school. In our local media, despite these very compelling figures—and this community has a right to feel aggrieved—the member for Ipswich West, who represents the part around Karalee where I represent the part around Mount Crosby, told the local residents that on his projections there will only be 437 secondary school students in 2011 and 530 in 2021, then he added the rider ‘and expected to attend the state high school’. There is a reason for that, and the reason is that there is not one. There is no state high school to attend. This is a swiftee pulled over the local community. It is easy to do a projection that says there will not be many kids in a state high school when there is no state high school for them to attend.

There are 1,300 students in the local state school, another 650 students in local private schools and several thousand students in surrounding areas. The member for Ipswich West is trying to pull the wool over the eyes of local residents by bodgying up some statistics in order to deceive people that there is no need for a high school when the numbers are absolutely compelling. Hundreds and hundreds of people signed a petition for this.

Time expired.