



Speech by

Hon. Kevin Lingard

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard Friday, 8 June 2007

CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIAL AGREEMENT BILL; APPROPRIATION BILLS

Hon. KR LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (4.52 pm): As part of the budget process, on behalf of Boonah State High School I want to present an idea that it has which it wants to present to the minister for education for extra funding. Recently Mr Wayne Wendt, the member for Ipswich West, and I were invited to Boonah for the opening of a magnificent community centre. After that we were invited to the Boonah State High School to have a look at its Smart Choices program in its tuckshop. Even though I was a high school principal who used to live at the tuckshop with one voluntary lady, a pie warmer and a Coke machine—and that was probably enough in the old days—I must admit that what is happening at Boonah is an amazing success story. I was most impressed and want to present it as part of the budget, because it really is a proposal to invite the Queensland minister for education to the Boonah State High School to enjoy a tuckshop lunch to highlight a Smart Choices good news story.

The P&C seeks to encourage consideration of funding a project to develop a fully accredited school tuckshop recipe book and menu planner. To further assist the P&C, the P&C would seek to engage a nutritionist and experienced chef to ensure that a recipe book is both practical and meets all of the guidelines. Boonah State High School is an excellent model of what can be achieved when the Smart Choices initiative is taken on with enthusiasm. It has the runs on the board in terms of successful menu planning and tuckshop business management. The concept could be easily transferred to other school sites, and that is obviously what it wants to do. It has had such success that the school wants to continue and develop its program further and then present the concept to other schools, and certainly the concept would meet the needs of many schools in addressing current agendas.

Boonah State High School is a country school in south-east Queensland with a population of 600 students. One of the reasons that the program has been successful is that the Boonah high school P&C with the enthusiastic support of principal Jeff Hennessey adopted all of the principles of the Smart Choices Healthy Food and Drink Supply Strategy from the first day of the 2006 school year. The students have responded well to the changed and expanded menu. The new menu relies heavily on homemade style dishes and products which are produced on site at the school tuckshop. Today the outlet easily complies with the balance of green and amber foods and its customers have indicated their satisfaction through words and patronage. The P&C realised that a whole cultural change had been enacted when a 'red' day in October resulted in students declining the offerings of what are now red menu items and asking if any of the 'green' ones could be made before the lunch hour had finished. The chocolate cake sold out of course, but the high-fat, high-salt or high-sugar main course items were rejected by most students. The red days now tend towards homemade cakes and slices while maintaining the mix of green and amber savoury menu items. The tuckshop manager has experimented with the menu and before introducing new entries will offer sample tastes to the student body.

Boonah State High School will be building a new tuckshop facility this year to replace the cramped, 40-year-old facility that it is doing the program through at present and anticipates that the installation of a commercial-grade kitchen and more person-friendly building will allow it to further expand the menu. Menu

item prices remain in the cheap category, but profits have increased significantly since the introduction of the Smart Choices program. The school believes that the things which have aided the success have been the introduction of a more business-like approach to the management of the tuckshop; the engagement of casual staff to replace the ever-dwindling numbers of volunteers; a can-do attitude and the adoption of the excellent Smart Choices strategy; replacing of commercially prepared and packaged items with prepared on-site dishes and products that have reduced purchase costs but have increased labour input; engagement of the students in the development of the menu; and good partnerships between the P&C, the school staff and local business. On behalf of Mr Wendt and myself, I very sincerely thank the Boonah State High School, principal Mr Hennessey, secretary Mrs Wendy Creighton and Boonah State High School P&C President Mr Rick Stanfield for a most enjoyable day. I will present this to the minister for education and hope that some sort of funding can be provided.