



Speech by
Pat Purcell

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard Tuesday, 9 October 2007

BULIMBA STATE SCHOOL

Mr PD PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (10.15 pm): Tonight I want to speak about one of the many great state schools in my electorate, and that is Bulimba State School. I am very proud to be associated with the school and principal, Mr Michael Zeuschner, his staff and of course the children. The school was opened in 1866 and is one of the oldest schools in Queensland. It is a school with a great future. It has been a great school and will continue to be one. It has recently undergone a \$4.3 million building program and the success of this building program is largely due to the input and forethought given by principal Michael Zeuschner and the school community led by the P&C. The project has given the school an additional three prep and five general learning classrooms. I inspected the new school block early in term 3 and everybody's enthusiasm and pride was evident.

There have been a number of inclusions that set this project apart from many other schools. For example, the prep toilets are located within the classrooms themselves, allowing the children total safety when they have to leave their learning environment to go to the bathroom. With a verandah outside, each of these classrooms has an additional learning area for the children to enjoy. Furniture for the classrooms consists of modular pieces so that they can be easily moved according to the children's learning needs. This means that when the children are doing a presentation or acting out a scenario the furniture can be configured accordingly. A piazza or gathering area for the school has been created in the basement or undercroft, making it an ideal area for parade or school performances, with forward planning allowing for extra classrooms that may need to be built in the future. As the school is built on the side of a hill, one of the things the school community did not want to lose was any existing playground area. To achieve the extra space, building had to be carried out on the hill land, the result being that the school now enjoys extra play areas that have been created with the removal of the portable buildings on the flat play areas which were previously needed to cope with the school numbers.

I would like to thank the project manager, the project team and all the workers from Northbuild who worked on the site, and particularly the management for the innovative way in which they constructed the building. They said that it was one of the most challenging buildings that they have completed to date, but they did a marvellous job. I would also like to thank the minister and I would particularly like to thank Al Wagner, who works for the education department, for the way in which he worked with the school community and achieved the great outcomes that he did.

I believe that outstanding results in literacy and numeracy will always be a major objective of the school, because they are the building blocks for other key learning areas. The Italian language is a significant part of the school's learning program. That learning program provides children with the opportunity to learn a second language whilst developing their understanding of another culture. The school is a part of the Gateway Learning Community, which is made up of all the state schools as well as Balmoral State High School in my electorate. This community provides children with an opportunity to be involved in student leadership initiatives.