



Speech by

# Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### State Schools of Tomorrow

**Hon. RJ WELFORD** (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (10.07 am): One of the most important influences on a child's education is the quality of the schools in which they learn. That is why our government is investing a record \$850 million in the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative for major school renewal and modernisation throughout the state. This is part of the \$1 billion Tomorrow's Schools package—the largest one-off investment in education facilities in Queensland's history.

Over the past three weeks I have visited three local school communities to deliver the good news that they have been chosen to be part of this exciting initiative. We will be spending millions of dollars in the Inala, Wynnum-Manly and East Ipswich areas to modernise and redevelop groups of state schools in these communities.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the Innisfail community will be the fourth to benefit from this historic initiative. An estimated \$20 million will be invested to help the local community create a new educational vision for Innisfail State High that will help secure the best possible opportunities for young people. As many members would remember, Innisfail State High School was one of the schools that bore the brunt of Cyclone Larry's fury last year.

We now have the opportunity to transform this school into a large, innovative 21st century learning environment. We want the local community to consider ideas about new curriculum choices, modern and innovative school design options and the types of high-quality facilities that can be shared with the wider community. Independent community consultation will begin shortly to gather ideas that align the school with the community's long-term educational needs. This is a once in a generation chance to create a sustainable, long-term educational vision for each of these four communities.

I believe there are three essential elements to effective schools: world-class facilities, professional and passionate teaching staff, and engaged communities. Our government's State Schools of Tomorrow program is integral to creating and supporting these three elements. I look forward to seeing the educational visions formed by each of these communities over the coming months.