



Speech by

# Hon. Rod Welford

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Hansard Wednesday, 5 September 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Education Capital Works Projects

**Hon. RJ WELFORD** (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Education and Training and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): Providing the best possible learning environments and educational opportunities for young Queenslanders is a cornerstone of our Smart State philosophy. We are committed to building contemporary education facilities which equip students for the challenges of the 21st century and inspire them to learn. This commitment is reflected in our investment in education capital works projects this year.

Since 2002, our government has invested more than \$1.7 billion on building new schools and classrooms and updating and remodelling existing facilities. A large slice of our capital works program is spent on buying land and providing new schools and classrooms to accommodate increasing student numbers in Queensland's key growth areas. New schools to open this year include Burpengary Meadows State School, Springfield Lakes State School, Isabella State School at Edmonton and the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology at Toowong.

Last week, I was extremely pleased to officially open the \$14 million first stage of the new Burpengary Meadows State School. Our government contributed \$7.5 million to the project, delivering high-quality facilities and modern educational tools, including high-speed internet and interactive whiteboards. Stage 2 of the project is in the early design phase with construction scheduled for completion by the start of 2009.

We are also building two new state schools in the booming northern Gold Coast region at Western Pacific Pines and Northern Coomera. Construction of the first stages of these projects is due for completion by the start of the 2008 school year. The Queensland Academy for Health Sciences is under construction on the Gold Coast and on track to open at the start of next year and the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries will move into its purpose-built premises at Kelvin Grove in the new year.

We have also recently rolled out the \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow initiative, which will deliver major school renewal and modernisation in four regions across the state: Inala-Durack, East Ipswich, Innisfail and Wynnum-Manly. In this year's budget we allocated \$445.5 million to our education capital works projects. I am pleased to say our school building program is booming and is set to gather even more momentum in the future.