



Speech by

**Ted Malone**

**MEMBER FOR MIRANI**

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2007

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## **SARINA AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN**

**Mr MALONE** (Mirani—NPA) (10.18 pm): I rise to speak on a matter of great importance to families in the Sarina district. The Sarina and District Community Kindergarten has made a submission to this government for the old Sarina preschool site to be removed from the list of properties to be sold on the open market and for the government to facilitate a swap with its existing site, which is currently under a deed in trust with the Department of Natural Resources and Water. Written submissions have been made by the kindergarten and me to the minister for education, the Minister for Natural Resources and Water, the minister for public works and housing, and the Minister for Communities. I have also followed up personally with Ministers Schwarten and Welford and discussed the matter with the minister for primary industries and member for Mackay, Tim Mulherin.

Late last year this government secured the old Walkerston preschool site for the Walkerston Community Kindergarten Association. The Walkerston community and I, as their state member, are sincerely appreciative. It is an act of good faith and a true commitment by this government to early education in the Walkerston area, and it will be for many years to come. As members are aware, there are many people in rural and regional Queensland who are concerned and confused about the future of their communities right now. It is vitally important for them to be able to maintain some sense of community, as it has always been in the past.

During a visit to Sarina last year the minister for communities would have recognised the strong sense of community and family that exists in the Sarina district. The Sarina and District Community Kindergarten is trying to secure a community asset that will ensure the sustainability of early childhood development for families in the Sarina district. The submission by the kindergarten executive is a very comprehensive and professional document that outlines all of the relevant information in support of its proposal. I urge this government to afford Sarina the same opportunity as Walkerston and to progress the proposal put forward in order to achieve a positive, long-term outcome for early education in the Sarina district. This is a vital project for the Sarina district for the early education of the young people in the Sarina district, and for the future of the community.