



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 11 November 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mount Gravatt State High School Fire

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.18 am): Remembrance Day 2009 will certainly be remembered by the school community at Mount Gravatt State High School, who woke up this morning to find that parts of their school had been extensively damaged by fire. This morning I visited the school to see first-hand the extent of the damage and to provide my support to the principal, Mr Scott Steinhardt, and staff in getting the school back on its feet.

I was left with two overall impressions from my visit today. My first impression was of the absolute devastation that fire wreaks. The damage at the school is quite serious as it has ripped the administrative heart out of the school, destroying the top floor of the school's administration building, including the offices of the principal, the deputy principal and administrative and support staff. Secondly, and more importantly, I was impressed by the determination that is already being shown by the school community to overcome this setback.

I want to thank the Minister for Education and Training, Geoff Wilson, and staff from Education Queensland, Q-Build, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service for responding so quickly in the early hours of this morning and assessing whether the school was safe for staff and students today. I am pleased to report that the school is open today. It will be business as usual for the 100 staff members and 850 students, and particularly the Year 12 students who are currently undertaking their important end-of-year exams. They can rest assured that they will have the full backing and support of the state government in repairing the damage from the fire and having the school fully operational as quickly as possible.