



Speech by

## Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 11 March 2010

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### EDUCATION, CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

**Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.23 pm): The Bligh government wants to ensure that Queensland continues to grow and prosper and that young Queenslanders are in the best possible position to meet the growing and challenging demands of an ever-changing society. A good education prepares young people to enhance their abilities and puts them in a position to continue lifelong learning so they can further improve on their opportunities.

Education is the key to all Queenslanders achieving their maximum possible potential, and it begins in the classroom. In saying this, it gives me great pleasure to recognise the government's funding commitment for local schools in the electorate of Greenslopes under the latest round of the State Schools of Tomorrow funding program. Over \$4 million will be invested into five schools across the Greenslopes electorate for upgrades to 27 classrooms, science labs and libraries.

I am delighted to announce that Cavendish Road State High School is receiving \$1,114,500 for upgrades to its library and science facilities. I recently also made representations on behalf of the school regarding repairs to the boundary fence of the school, with remedial work now in the process of being carried out. I thank the education minister, the Hon. Geoff Wilson, for that commitment. Coorparoo Secondary College is receiving \$1,154,662 and Holland Park State High School is receiving \$692,797 to upgrade its science facilities. Holland Park State School is receiving \$281,135 for minor refurbishment works, while Marshall Road State School is receiving \$1,124,541 for major works to support innovative teaching and learning.

I am also proud to announce that \$920,000 has been allocated from this program towards the refurbishment of the science block at the Mount Gravatt State High School, which will proudly celebrate its 50th anniversary of educating southsiders this year. Four science classrooms will be redesigned and upgraded to provide a modern learning environment for students. This refurbishment is likely to involve the replacement of old timber benches, the upgrading of gas, water and power supplies, new lighting, computer connections and furniture, and new floor coverings.

Reconstruction of the school's administration block is also progressing well following the devastating fire late last year, with completion due by the end of May 2010. Due to the amount of water and smoke damage to most of the ground floor, the building has had to be almost completely rebuilt. Part of the library is currently being used as a temporary administration block, but QBuild is working diligently to complete the rebuild as quickly as possible.

On top of this, the Bligh government is making a further investment of \$30.2 million to deliver high-tech learning facilities for the School of Distance Education, which will be relocated from its current West End base to Coorparoo Secondary College in the Greenslopes electorate. This investment will see an upgrade to the existing library to include an administration centre, a staff annexe, a new catering canteen block, a prep to year 5 staff learning centre and a visual arts centre for the Coorparoo college students.

It is fantastic to see local schools and our local community benefiting from the government's substantial investment in this area. I want to congratulate all schools on their successful applications,

particularly all school principals, and I also thank all schoolteachers, teacher aides, administration officers and everyone else who make such a great contribution to educating the next generation of Queenslanders. This sort of investment makes me very proud to be part of a government which puts Queensland children first by investing in education.