



Speech by

**Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Thursday, 5 August 2010

---

## **BUDDINA STATE SCHOOL**

**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.17 pm): Let me tell members about the hall at Buddina, the \$3.2 million multipurpose hall under the BER initiative. Of course, the BER initiative has been a topical issue over recent months. It is a \$16 billion program that has blown out to over \$2 billion and presided over by the former education minister who then stabbed Kevin Rudd in the back at the behest of the faceless union leaders of the New South Wales Right. But let us forget that because that was the fake Julia Gillard. We are moving forward. We are past that.

We have all heard of the many school hall rip-offs under the BER program that was so poorly conceived because it relied upon incompetent state Labor governments to administer the projects, and we in Queensland know how well our incompetent state Labor government can bungle and blow-out projects. The Premier was in here three days ago saying that she loves going into these halls and loves walking around. Well, can I tell members that Buddina State School hall was completed in February this year and staff and students have still not been able to gain access to that facility. A series of project blunders have dogged the hall—which now sits empty and unused—and the blame can be levelled in no uncertain terms at the Bligh Labor government.

The blame can be levelled in no uncertain terms at the Bligh Labor government. While the Premier and the Prime Minister fight over which lectern they should stand at—vis-à-vis who is further to the left—the students at Buddina State School have to share the hall facilities of other schools while their hall sits idle and useless.

The original construction cost of \$3.2 million included a budget of \$80,000 for furniture and incidentals. However, \$30,000 from this amount was needed to refit the electricity, because the original transformer did not have enough capacity to cope. Now, the building does not meet fire regulation standards owing to the amount of water pressure flowing to the hydrant. It is going to cost another \$32,000 to fix the problem and the state is not footing the bill. It is going to have to come out of the furniture and incidentals yet again.

I ask the minister: how much furniture and incidentals are going to be left in the hall once it is available for use by the students, given that any amount required to fix these errors continues to come from the furniture budget? I call on the Minister for Education and Training to take some responsibility for this mistake as it was his department that made the mistake in the first place. Instead of ripping off the students because of the government's incompetence in planning the project, any money required to fix this issue should be paid for by the department.

I add that I understand that there are two schools in the federal seat of Longman that have had the same problem, but the federal government foot the bill for one of the halls and the state government foot the bill for the other. I do not care where the money comes from; I just want to see the hall at Buddina State School in use by the students and staff. The Minister for Education and Training in Queensland must answer these questions: will Education Queensland foot the bill to fix ongoing problems? Will the minister get the money from the federal government to fix the problem during the federal election campaign? Finally, will the minister guarantee to our principals and the P&Cs of all the schools impacted all over Queensland by this issue that they will not have to reach into their own pockets and fix this mess that has been made by an incompetent state Labor government?