



Speech by


Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Wednesday, 7 September 2011

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Education, Infrastructure Projects

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (2.22 pm): The Bligh government has a very clear position and vision for the future of Queensland's education system. We are determined to provide the educational framework and facilities that will allow our children to be the best they can be. We are building a brighter future for Queensland children. That is because education is, has always been and will continue to be a key priority for Labor.

Part of this priority is our infrastructure program within the Education portfolio, which is delivering modern, world-class learning areas for our students. This financial year alone, we are spending \$487 million on new and refurbished schools and kindergartens across Queensland. Already this year we have opened the school doors to new students at Springfield Central State High School and state schools at Coomera Rivers, Springfield Central, Augusta, Woodlinks and a relocated state school at Federal.

We have also opened the new Bremer State High School, providing Ipswich with one of the most modern schools in Australia. Our work has been recognised by the Green Building Council of Australia, which has assessed the five new schools built as part of the schools PPP. Four have been allocated four-star environmental ratings, while I am advised that the fifth—Coomera Rivers State School—has been named as the first school in Australia to achieve a five-star environmental rating.

We have completed major refurbishments to many schools, such as Richlands East State School and Serviceton South State School. We have also opened numerous kindergartens and allocated a record \$134 million for school maintenance in 2011-12. The work continues—with a new school to open next year at Murrumba Downs and a new campus of Tagai State College to be built on Mer in the Torres Strait. We have also allocated \$328.2 million for new and refurbished infrastructure in state schools over the next four years as part of our Flying Start initiative, and we will provide \$81 million to the non-state sector for capital improvements to join year 7 with high school in 2015.

All this work comes on the back of the just completed \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow program, which represented the single largest investment in our schools in the history of our state. As a result of this program, Queensland children have benefited from more than 1,620 classroom refurbishments, about 150 science lab refurbishments and new school facilities around the state. The substantial funding that the Bligh government has allocated towards schools funding and infrastructure is providing our students with high-quality facilities. We are delivering a first-class education system and facilities that will benefit students and help build a brighter Queensland both now and well into the future.

I would like to conclude by expressing my condolences to the family and friends of an officer of the Department of Education and Training. Mr Luke Allen, who very sadly and tragically passed away on the weekend, was a loyal, talented and hard-working officer in the department, as is his father, Mr Craig Allen. Luke will be greatly missed.