




Speech by

Jason O'Brien

MEMBER FOR COOK

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TAGAI STATE COLLEGE, MER CAMPUS

 **Mr O'BRIEN** (Cook—ALP) (3.50 pm): It was a great pleasure last Thursday to open the new \$33 million campus of the Tagai State College on Mer Island, alongside Councillor Ron Day of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Mr Doug Passi, the chair of the PBC on Mer Island, Mr Ned David, the chair of the Torres Strait Islander Regional Education Council, Tagai State College executives Judy Ketchel and Stephanie Savage, and the community. It is a fantastic new facility in one of the most remote parts of Queensland.

It is well recognised that the quality of a child's school education is one of the most important influences in their life, and Tagai State College students on the Mer campus can be very proud of their new school. It has been a long time coming but the facilities there are fantastic. The official name of the new campus is Mer Eruer Uteb, which in Mer language means 'learning place'. The construction of the new school means students now have wonderful play areas, and there is ample room for future expansion to cater for up to 175 students. Not only does the school have more space but students and staff now have access to state-of-the-art facilities. Mer may be one of the most remote schools in the state but they have facilities now which are equal to anywhere in Queensland. Students and teachers are all enjoying the new resources and the multipurpose activity centre, cultural centre, canteen and sports oval.

I should also acknowledge the \$850,000 contribution from the federal government alongside the \$33 million contribution from the state government for the school. I want to congratulate the principal, Paul Kuronya, the teachers and the students for keeping their focus on teaching and learning despite the move. I am sure everybody would agree that it was worth putting up with the hardship to gain these fantastic new facilities. I want to congratulate the community on the great achievement.