




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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HELENSVALE STATE SCHOOL, PREP PLAY AREA

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.00 pm): It seems like tonight is the night to be talking about the schools in our electorates. What a wonderful subject for us to be talking about this late at night. Tonight I have the opportunity to talk about Helensvale State School, which is a very large school. Currently it has almost 1,100 students and it has the capacity to take 1,400 students. Of that, there are about 170 prep students. Because of the inclement weather earlier this year, the prep students' play areas were washed away. All the soft material underneath the play areas was taken out by the heavy storms and so on. Essentially, it was uneconomical to restore those play areas to their former glory.

As a result of that, I became aware of the matter. We visited the school and looked at the situation. We have made some moves on some of the play areas, but we became aware that there was nowhere near enough play equipment for the number of prep and grade 1 students. We made some further inquiries and discovered that the reason was the Building the Education Revolution building had to go in a particular spot and all of the play equipment was moved. However, the play equipment was so old that it did not meet current Australian standards and they could not re-use it. The school has a beautiful new building, which is absolutely wonderful, but they lost all of that play equipment.

The school was proactive. They put together some quotes and got a few things happening. I had a quiet word to the education minister about the fact that this was really replacement and restoration of play equipment. Of course, all members would know that prep students learn through a play based curriculum. That is very difficult if you do not have any play equipment for them to learn on. Therefore, a good argument was put forward.

I can tell members that earlier this week I received a telephone call from the principal of Helensvale State School to advise me that the director-general's office had contacted her just a couple of hours before to advise her that the funds to fully replace all of the equipment, totalling in excess of \$90,000, have now been deposited into their account over two transactions in order to fully restore that play equipment. That play equipment will be installed over the next two to three months. We look forward to the day we will launch the new equipment with the children. It is a win for the kids of Helensvale.