




Speech by

Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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TOOWOOMBA NORTH ELECTORATE, SCHOOLS

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.25 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise tonight to talk about some of the school visits I have had in the electorate of Toowoomba North. It has been a great pleasure to get around to these schools and inform them of some of the funding that has been made available to them, particularly in relation to school maintenance and most recently literacy and numeracy. One of the schools I visited was Harlaxton State School where I had the pleasure of spending the morning with their prep class.

I would like to remind parents who have children who will be turning 5 by 30 June 2013 that time is approaching to enrol them in prep at their local school. The Queensland prep year gives all young Queenslanders the very best start to school by helping them make a smooth transition to year 1 and it sets them on the path to lifelong learning. Prep is not compulsory but it is highly recommended. It runs five days a week and the children can stay all day.

At Harlaxton State School, I got to meet the prep teacher, Gillian Thompson, a teacher with 35 years experience. I had great fun with the teacher and the children as they got to show me their engine room, their office, their interactive whiteboard and some computer reading programs. The engine room is an innovation of Mrs Thompson and is a system which drives everyone's learning. Some of the children—Justice, Justin, Ally-Bell and Rhys—showed me their interactive whiteboard, and Takara and Sky demonstrated the Reading Eggs program on the computers. Both of these tools are state-of-the-art and they provide interactive and self-driven learning for students. It was really good to go to Harlaxton State School. It is actually the state school of my children's grandfather and great-grandfather who both did their primary education there. It is good to see the school moving ahead.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Toowoomba North State School recently and we discussed maintenance. I visited this school earlier in the year and I asked them what their biggest issue was. It is an old school, and they pointed to the ceiling and they said it is really hard for the children to concentrate when the paint falls off the ceiling and onto their books while they are reading them. So it was with great pleasure that I was able to discuss with them the \$160,000 the minister has made available to update the maintenance of that school to ensure that the school has the quality facilities the children deserve. I do not think any children in our state system deserve paint falling off the ceiling and onto their reading books while they are trying to learn, and Toowoomba North State School will now be able to take that maintenance money and get the ceilings painted and ensure the children have a much brighter future.