




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

MOTION: SALE OF PUBLIC ASSETS

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (5.46 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- notes that the Leader of the Opposition endorsed the closure of schools in her electorate to reinvigorate other schools during the last parliament;
- notes that the Bligh government left behind a \$297 million maintenance black hole and the Newman government has committed \$300 million to rectifying this problem; and
- endorses the Newman government's considered approach to infrastructure management through the establishment of the Queensland Schools Planning Commission.

What we have just seen is one of the most disgraceful displays of an opposition leader trying to create fear amongst all school communities in Queensland by deliberately misrepresenting the information about thresholds and the things we consider when looking at schools. Let us look at the briefing note that has been the subject of so much discussion over the past couple of days—a briefing note that was presented to me in August last year. It is not government policy. The point I have been making around the state over the past couple of days is that just because the department says, 'This is what we recommend,' does not mean that we accept it as government policy—unlike those opposite.

What did those opposite do? They closed 89 schools in the time they were in government. That is an average of seven a year. Yet here they are creating straw man arguments, creating fear amongst communities throughout Queensland that we are going to be closing their schools.

I made it very clear yesterday that the number of schools closed will not be 55; it will be a lot fewer than that. The important thing is that we have to ensure we plan appropriately and consult with principals, regional directors and P&Cs. The extreme language we heard from the opposition leader does not help anyone. Talk about con jobs. The Leader of the Opposition said that it was like a Grimm's fairytale. It is the worst type of language. It is irresponsible for someone in her position to be carrying on in such a way.

Let us look at the level of hypocrisy of those opposite. Those of us who had to sit through the Bligh government may recall a little program called State Schools of Tomorrow. I know that those opposite spend most of their time on their iPads so they can google that. When they do they will find an array of documents, including a little fact sheet that I will table in a moment. I have here the fact sheet for the Inala-Durack Project, which was part of State Schools of Tomorrow. For this part of the project the then Labor government, in which the Leader of the Opposition was the member for Inala, closed—wait for it, members—Inala West State School and Richlands State School to renew Durack, Inala, Richlands East and Serviceton South state schools along with the Western Suburbs Special

School and Glenala State High School. I want to read from the fact sheet for Labor's State Schools of Tomorrow which answers some of the questions as to why schools are closing. It states—

Why are some schools closing?

Both Inala West and Richlands state schools are located on small sites—about half the typical size of a new primary school, have low enrolment numbers which are not projected to increase to a significant degree and are very close to other local primary schools which are considered to be more sustainable.

It continues—

What will happen to the funds from the sale of the schools?

Anticipated returns from the sale of Inala West and Richlands state school sites have been included in the project budget.

That is back into local schools. That is exactly what we are proposing to do. It goes on—

What makes one school more 'sustainable' than another?

- The size of the school's enrolment ...
- The school's enrolments are in decline or there is only limited growth expected in the future
- There are other, more viable state schools nearby
- The Community Reference Group ... agreed that the school is ... the least sustainable in the cluster

Will there be any job loss as a result of this initiative?

No.

These are the same things that we are saying about our plan, and let us look at a press release that the member for Inala put out on 8 October 2010. It states—

... State Member for Inala Annastacia Palaszczuk officially opened the facilities which have benefitted from \$11 million in refurbishments.

It continues—

... Annastacia Palaszczuk said parents know they can count on state schools like Durack to offer their children a flying start to learning and life.

So she endorsed closing Inala West and Richlands, which is exactly what we are talking about doing in terms of planning. We are looking at our asset base. With 1,241 schools, it is prudent to look at our asset base. Former minister Geoff Wilson refused to do it because it was too hard and then of course the punitive Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dick—the prince in waiting—did not reinvestigate it when he became the minister. He is going to have to get a bit more intestinal fortitude if he wants to be the Leader of the Opposition from outside this House. The bottom line is that we need 100 new schools in Queensland. We need to refurbish existing schools and plan for new schools over the next 10 years. We need to do it because it is the right thing for the whole of the state. The longer we leave it, the bigger the problem will become.

(Time expired)

Madam SPEAKER: Minister, you indicated you were tabling documents. Did you table those documents?

Mr LANGBROEK: I am happy to table them.

Tabled paper: State Schools of Tomorrow: Tomorrow's Schools—providing for a smarter future—Fact Sheet: Inala-Durack Project [\[2530\]](#).

Tabled paper: Queensland government ministerial media release, dated 8 October 2010, titled '\$11 million refurbishment to celebrate Durack State School's 50th Anniversary' [\[2531\]](#).