




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Schools

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (2.17 pm): It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Newman government will build 10 new schools to meet growing student demand in Queensland. These 10 schools will be developed through an innovative public-private partnership that will see private companies contracted to finance, design, construct and maintain the package of schools.

The new schools will be built in Pimpama, Burpengary, Pallara, Ripley Valley, Springfield, Griffin, Bellbird Park, Caboolture—two of them—and Redbank Plains. Now this may come as a surprise to those opposite, but these schools were not selected on the basis of their electorate or a feeling we got from a local meeting.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Will the interjections and unacceptable exclamations from my left cease. I will start warning members under the standing orders if they continue.

Mr LANGBROEK: These schools were selected on the basis of careful planning resulting from the analysis of rigorous data. The Newman government recognises that Queensland's student population is growing rapidly so for the first time ever a Schools Planning Commission has been established to identify the areas where schools are needed most. The ground work has been done and this project will deliver 10 new schools to Queensland's growth hot spots. For example, there are four in the growth belt south of Ipswich and four in the growth belt on Brisbane's outer north. The 10 new schools will consist of two secondary and eight primary schools, catering for up to 10,800 students during peak periods of enrolment. The schools will employ up to 540 teachers and 130 non-teaching positions, with the first schools expected to be open from the 2016 academic year.

This project is a wonderful opportunity to innovate the way we design, build and maintain buildings. By clustering the schools we will be able to achieve efficiencies and by partnering with the private sector we can improve the quality without increasing the price. The short-listed bidders for the project are: Inspire Schools Partnership, Edvantage, Exemplar Education and Bright Futures Partnership.

In my role as the minister responsible for training, I am acutely aware of the importance of the construction industry to Queensland's economy. It is one of our four pillars. This project will also boost economic activity during the five-year construction phase and generate around 1,700 jobs a year.

Unlike those opposite, we are taking a structured view to planning for the education asset base which consists of over 1,200 schools and \$18 billion. To build new schools in areas where they are needed we must simultaneously make tough decisions and look at innovative delivery methods, otherwise we simply will not be able to cater for our growing student population.