




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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**MOTION: SALE OF PUBLIC ASSETS**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise in support of the amendment of the Minister for Education, John-Paul Langbroek. Queensland schools have long suffered under the failed, tired former state Labor government that lacked the initiative to spend money where it was actually needed. This Newman government is about achieving real results for education outcomes for young minds.

During the Beattie-Bligh era of government 89 schools were closed, which is about seven schools per year. Instead of talking about the typical Labor scaremongering campaign, let me talk about real results in the schools in Albert. I have to go back about 12 months, straight after the election campaign, when I first received tours around the schools in the electorate of Albert. All the principals in my electorate, and I am sure this is the case across all of Queensland, have an enormous degree of pride in their schools. To a principal a school is a home, it is a part of who they are and what they are trying to achieve. Principal after principal expressed their dismay at the condition of classrooms and other school buildings which had been forgotten by the previous Labor government. Principals take great pride in showing prospective parents their schools. The word of the day is embarrassment. The embarrassed principals found it difficult to show their schools which were so run down due to the previous Labor government.

I will give two examples of truly wonderful schools which fall into this category. The first is a school that had a massive maintenance backlog. This school had paint peeling off the walls, the classroom doors were rotten to the core and the classrooms themselves desperately needed attention. This school was Pimpama State School. This school was in direct competition with a brand spanking new school within a few kilometres. It made it extremely difficult for this principal to stand there and say, 'Bring your kids to my school because my school is the best.' Unfortunately, when he had to show parents around his school he was embarrassed because of the paint peeling off the walls. Not anymore. This school has been reborn with the tender love and care of the principal, the staff, the P&C and \$160,000 from the Advancing our Schools Maintenance Fund.

Gaven State School is another example of a great school with a proactive principal, caring staff and a vocal P&C. This school was also forgotten and had a massive maintenance backlog. The internal roof of one of the school's toilet blocks had collapsed. This forced the closure of the toilet block. This government's Advancing our Schools Maintenance Fund has given them the necessary funds to fix up the toilet roof and put it back into service. This money has also been used to repaint the whole school, giving it a new lease of life.

This government is about real outcomes, it is about allocating \$300 million to help address the maintenance backlog in schools. As my colleague the member for Thuringowa stated, this maintenance backlog money is a river of gold to schools, P&Cs and the community. This government is getting on with the job of better educational outcomes. We are boosting prep; 150 prep classes will have a full-time teacher aide allocated; \$26 million will be allocated over four years for literacy and numeracy; \$4 million will be allocated over four years to better prepare children for the transition to

school—the list goes on. This is about getting on with the job. Delivering real results for Queensland students is about great teachers, great results, and no more layers of bureaucracy and administration that the opposition dwells on.

In closing, I would like to say that at the last election the electorate did not take the Labor Party seriously and with this type of obtuse scaremongering I can see why.