



Speech By  
**Hon. John-Paul Langbroek**


**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Education Accord**

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.49 am): I am delighted to be able to update the House today on the Education Accord and the excitement that this has generated around Queensland about this government's vision for the future. On Tuesday morning I sat down with our key stakeholders in education in Queensland to let them know about our strong plan for the Education Accord. They included our school principal association leaders, representatives of the Queensland Teachers Union and parent bodies, and of course our partners in the Catholic and independent schooling sectors. I assured them that, like everything this government does in education, we would be engaging in extensive consultation across Queensland.

Since then, I have been very pleased by the overwhelmingly positive response that we have received from these stakeholders. They have been out and about since the announcement telling Queenslanders that they too see the Education Accord as an historic opportunity to move forward on a bipartisan basis. Mike Byrne from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission said, 'We welcome this "whole of state" initiative and look forward to opportunities to engage closely with the process.' David Robertson from Independent Schools Queensland said, 'We are all keen to contribute to developing a long-term plan for education that maximises the opportunities for all our children.' The CEO of the Queensland P&C association, Kevan Goodworth, applauded the initiative, saying that this 'kind of wide-ranging consultation can only be positive'. And I am heartened to say that Kevin Bates from the Queensland Teachers Union told ABC Radio that the QTU 'welcome this decision by the government ... to bring together stakeholders from right across the state to look at what we might do in education over the next 30 years. That's something that will help us break away from the election cycle.'

So as you can see, Madam Speaker, there has been praise far and wide from leaders in the Queensland education sector. They can see that this government does have a vision for a brighter future and that when it comes to our children's schools we want this to be a shared vision. They know that this requires a plan that is about more than the last budget, about more than the last election and about more than short-term politics. Indeed, in light of this, those on the other side of the House have been conspicuous by their silence on the Education Accord. This is despite the fact that some of the most emulated and envied education systems in the world are those built on bipartisan agreement. They do not seem to be interested in building a shared vision for the future of education. They still do not have a plan. They still are not showing leadership. They do not have the intestinal fortitude required to reach across the political aisle.

I hope this will change because on 25 September when we gather together at the Education Accord summit I look forward to sitting down with all Queensland MPs and hearing from them about

what they want to see included in the draft accord. But what I am most looking forward to is the opportunity that the summit will give us to sit down with mums and dads, principals and teachers from local communities all over Queensland so that their hands-on, grassroots experience can inform the development of the accord. We will hear from some of the most respected and renowned thinkers in education in this country, including: John Daley, the CEO of the Grattan Institute; Dr Stefan **Hajkowicz** of CSIRO Futures, whose core work is predicting and studying future trends; Professor Peter Coaldrake, the Vice-Chancellor at our own Queensland University of Technology; and Dr Ben Jensen, the CEO of Learning First. We will work together to develop the historic Education Accord. A brighter future for education in Queensland is ours for the taking but only under an LNP government with a strong plan for a brighter future.