




Speech By
Hon. John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Fixing Our Schools Fund

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.46 am): Having the job as Minister for Education in Queensland is always inspiring, but today is especially great because I can announce that we will shortly begin rolling out the final maintenance allocations under our Fixing Our Schools Fund to clear the school maintenance backlog left for us by Labor. It has taken nearly \$300 million, but the backlog will be gone and Queensland schools will all be safer places for our children to play and learn. Some schools will receive in excess of \$500,000, and that is in addition to funds we have invested in capital works projects to deliver new facilities and build the schools of the future. Once again, schools will, if they wish, be able to go direct to market to have necessary works completed rather than being told to lodge a maintenance request, join the queue and wait hopefully, as they were under Labor.

Labor likes to think that only it can be trusted when it comes to education. It is an article of faith for it—at least, that is what it says! This could not be further from the truth. In community after community it took Queenslanders for granted for 20 years. Nowhere was this more shamefully evident than in the state of Queensland schools. The worst thing is that it was burning through money in almost every other area, because we have the debt to show for it; it just was not leaving any to look after the area it supposedly values the most. In the days and months after I became minister I received calls and emails from colleagues, from parents, from principals. In the years before we became the government, principals in my electorate of Surfers Paradise were wary of complaining in case of retribution. I could not help but notice when I visited schools in my electorate whilst in opposition for eight years cracked guttering, fencing in disrepair, shabby fittings and peeling paint for which schools would receive amounts of up to \$10,000 a year. Under the LNP government, that is a thing of the past.

I want to reassure those opposite that this LNP government has done what they never did: we fixed Labor's school maintenance mess in every one of their electorates. So let us go through them. The 10 schools in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate of Inala have benefited from more than \$2 million in maintenance funding since we came to government, with half a million dollars of that flowing to them in 2014-15. That was good news for Darra State School. Under Labor, it would have received \$7,480 for 2012-13 maintenance—\$7,500! With today's announcement, it will have received a total of more than \$300,000 to revitalise its school.

The member for Mulgrave might be interested to know that the 19 schools in his electorate have received more than \$3.7 million since 2012, with \$970,000 in 2014-15. What does that mean? Let us look at Hambleton State School, which had a maintenance liability of \$176,330 when we came to government. The planned allocation under Labor was going to be \$21,274 in 2012-13. We gave

them \$160,000 in our first year. They will have received a total of nearly \$260,000 by the end of 2014-15.

The member for Redcliffe likes to place a lot of blame on the policies of this government. The policies of this government have resulted in an investment of more than \$3 million in clearing the mess that Labor left in Redcliffe. For Scarborough State School, there is \$252,360—the kind of investment that really makes a difference. The member for South Brisbane, who I see leering at me from over the chamber, has not yet written to me to say thank you—and I think I will be waiting for a long time—for the \$2.34 million that this government has invested in the eight schools in her electorate or, for that matter, the many millions of dollars we spent future proofing Brisbane State High School—

Ms Trad interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! The member for South Brisbane will cease her interjections.

Mr LANGBROEK: There is more than \$410,000 for Narbethong State Special School, \$284,000 for West End Special School and \$259,842 for Dutton Park State School.

The member for Stafford—welcome—can breathe a little easier because, unlike us on this side of the House when we were elected, he has an electorate in which the Labor backlog has been cleared. Thanks to the \$828,484—

Dr Lynham interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! The member for Stafford will cease his interjections.

Mr LANGBROEK: For Stafford's four schools, this LNP government has delivered \$828,484. The 16 schools in the electorate of the member for Rockhampton have received \$4.437 million for school maintenance, including the more than \$1 million that they will receive in 2014-15. The member for Mackay can tell principals that they have received a combined total of \$3.54 million in 12 schools. They will certainly have their final maintenance allocations of \$823,000. In Bundamba, the member may be interested to know that 13 schools shared in \$3.21 million to fix up Labor's mess, including \$662,000 in 2014-15. Finally, in Woodridge we have delivered a massive \$374 million to the 12 schools in the member's community.

When I say that the future of Queensland's schools is too important to risk on the chaos, waste and mismanagement of Labor, I need only point to the state of disrepair that they left Queensland's schools to prove my point. Queenslanders can have every confidence in the LNP and its plans for the future. They only have to look at what we have done in our state schools.