




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Merrimac State High School

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise in the House today to report on an exciting event that I attended at the Merrimac State High School in my electorate of Mermaid Beach. It was a great honour to officially be involved in the ceremony to hand over the keys to the exciting new year 7 building that will accommodate those students from 2015 onwards. This state-of-the-art \$4.7 million year 7 building is part of the larger \$7.3 million upgrade of the Merrimac State High School facilities. As of 2015, the year 7 building will have its first intake of 240 students. This brings Merrimac in line with the infrastructure needed for the change of year 7s into high school. It was a fantastic opportunity to represent my good friend and colleague the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment and member for Surfers Paradise, who I know is doing a fantastic job and shows true dedication to the very important education sector in Queensland.

Merrimac State High School is one of the largest schools on the Gold Coast and has a current enrolment of close to 1,300 students representing 44 different nationalities. This building and the overall upgrade will be a great boost for the school community. The final furnishings will happen soon and will be completed on time and on budget and ready over the coming weeks. Year 12s are running in the building this year to test for any flaws and remedial actions that may need to be taken before 2015.

The LNP government is committed to supporting schools achieve a move of year 7 into high school, and this is a great example of this. Children are our future, and the education for our children and young people is first and foremost in the minds and the policy strategy of the LNP government. Good education is the key to success and Merrimac State High School is a fine example of this. It combines all aspects of educational learning that develops the area that the student is talented in and exposes them to new areas that they have not been exposed to previously and would like to explore. I would like to congratulate the principal, Mr Chris Tobin, and his team for all the hard work in fostering the development of the school community by bringing together all areas and creating a teaching and learning environment that is conducive to high-level achievement and excellence in education.

I would also like to congratulate all builders, architects, P&Cs and everyone involved in the development of this wonderful project. It has been a fantastic outcome for the Merrimac State High School. Principle Chris Tobin is an exemplary principal in our first-class Queensland education system and leads by example with a very hands-on approach to students, teachers and parents alike at Merrimac High. I thank him for his continued dedication and application to successful outcomes for the students under his stewardship and support wholeheartedly any directions he wishes to pursue for the school in the future.