




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Brisbane Bayside State College

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.33 pm): I recently had the honour of representing the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Kate Jones, at the opening of Brisbane Bayside State College's junior secondary O block building. It was a great pleasure for me to open the new year 7 facilities.

When the former Labor government led by education reformer Anna Bligh made the decision to move year 7 to high school, there were some who doubted the decision. Amazingly, following the outstanding success of the transition it is difficult to find anybody who can remember saying a bad word about it. And you need look no further than Brisbane Bayside State College to see why the critics have faded into the background.

I have personally watched this college grow from a disused caravan park site into the state-of-the-art education facility it is today under the State Schools of Tomorrow project, which was led by Paul Lucas, a former member for Lytton. The growth continues with the completion of the new classroom facilities, which are home to the 180 year 7 students who commenced at the school this year. Bayside State College also welcomed a further 90 year 8 students into the school community in 2015. The quality is there for all to see and is worth the considerable investment the government has made. And it is not just an investment in bricks and mortar; it is an investment in our future through our children. Today we see excellent facilities, excellent principal school leadership, excellent parent engagement and support and, above all, an excellent teaching team that has created a new and vibrant junior secondary identity that supports the new students.

Construction was part of the Queensland government's capital investment of up to \$328 million on state school infrastructure to facilitate the historic move of year 7 to high school. The building is predominantly for the use of year 7 classes, with some year 8 use, and the undercover area is specifically dedicated for their use. Preparation was the key to the success of this project. Mr Wallwork, the Brisbane Bayside State College principal, and his team spent a number of years preparing for the move of year 7 to high school, ensuring the move was positive for the entire school community. The focus was on creating a distinct identity for junior secondary students, ensuring a smooth transition for students in years 7 and 8, and building teacher capacity with teaching teams. As part of the preparation, primary school students had the opportunity to visit the school and there were information events for parents and aspiring year 7 entrants.

Two primary school teachers also made the move to join Brisbane Bayside State College as part of the transition. They form part of a team of 14 looking after junior secondary education including a master teacher and head of department for effective teaching and learning. I know that the year 7s are settling in well, and both the school and students continue to learn during this first year of year 7 transition. The new students have a junior secondary precinct, a state-of-the-art learning facility and the latest technologies allowing learning opportunities for students to interact and collaborate online.

I congratulate the principal, Mr Darren Wallwork, and his dedicated teaching team and support staff, the P&C and the broader school community for supporting this historic transition. These pupils are in the vanguard of a new era in Queensland education, and I look forward to watching the progress of the new year 7s as they make their way through the next six years of secondary education.

However, there are dark clouds on the education horizon, and all of them are emanating from the Abbott government in Canberra. The Prime Minister's hit man, the Hon. Joe Hockey, who did not even deign to mention the words 'education' or 'schools' in his budget speech, has confirmed that \$6 billion will be torn from Queensland state schools—both state and non-state—in a brazen move that defies reason. Despite historic bipartisan support for funding education at the higher education index, which reflects the true cost of education, the Abbott government has decided that from 2017 the index will drop to CPI. This means a \$30 billion cut Australia-wide and a \$6 billion cut for Queensland. If the Leader of the Opposition really cared about the schools in his electorate and across Queensland he would join the government in condemning this outrageous move.