




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton Campus

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (1.13 am): I rise today to talk briefly about the Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton campus. I want schools in the Toowoomba North electorate to be vibrant hubs where children learn, teachers teach and communities gather. Currently, the P&C at that school has an e-petition that I would encourage people to have a look at. It is on the parliamentary website at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/workofassembly/petition/e-petitions. I would encourage members to have a look at that petition, because in the Toowoomba North electorate one school does not have an assembly hall where people can gather. I table a proposal that was put together by the school in relation to its assembly hall proposal.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 14 March 2014, titled 'Assembly Hall Proposal Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton Campus' [\[816\]](#).

Members may ask: why is this important? Toowoomba has some great state schools, but this state school does not have an assembly hall. There is no venue for school assemblies, no venue for indoor sporting activities, no venue for student key assessment tasks and no venue for dance, drama, music or school bands. No indoor sports are included in the PE program. Let me assure members that, at this time of the year in Toowoomba, people do not want to be sitting outside on the grass when it is four degrees. I think that it is a terrible shame, because the community of Wilsonton is a very proud community. It has a great school community. It is a very vibrant community with young people trying to make the best of their lives and parents who support them very well. I should also note that, at the election the booth in this area voted 61 per cent in favour of Labor, yet when I asked a question on notice about the size of schools and which schools do not have covered areas in which students can gather and assembly halls, not just in Toowoomba but across the whole of Queensland, I found that there is only one school that has over 800 students with no plan for an assembly hall, no plan for an indoor sports hall and no plan for an arts and performance school, and that is the Wilsonton campus of Toowoomba State High School.

I encourage the minister to come and have a look at the school, talk to the P&C, talk to the children at the school and talk to their parents so that she can see that they are very much deserving of an indoor sports hall. There is a lot of conversation going on about whether this hall was funded by the LNP. Our better schools boost funding had included funding for this hall. Had the LNP won the election, this hall would have been built. This school is located in a Labor stronghold west of the divide. I say to the Labor members to not let down the families who support their party. I ask the members opposite to build the students of that school a hall. They deserve nothing less than the very best the members opposite can offer. They are letting them down by ignoring them.