




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOowoomba North

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Wilsonton State High School, Arts and Sports Hall

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (1.21 am): I rise to talk about the Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton campus, which is one of my favourite topics because the poor students at the Wilsonton campus attend the largest campus in Queensland not to have an indoor sports facility. A lot has been said about this in my community. There is a lot of commentary. Some people are saying that the funding that I had secured was part of Strong Choices, which is completely incorrect. The money was in the budget clearly marked for capital works on the school campus. I am very disappointed and it is only the students and staff of the school who are more disappointed than me.

I acknowledge the effort of some of the staff: Christina Rogers and Principal Chris Zilm have worked very hard to bring this matter to the attention of both the department and the community of Wilsonton in Toowoomba, so that they can get what is expected on every other campus in Queensland of this size. Every other campus across our great state has a facility such as this, but since 1998, when the Wilsonton campus was opened, it has had no facility. I was first approached on this issue by the P&C represented by David van Tricht, Secretary Greg Spearitt and Executive Officer Melinda Dick. They spoke to me about this roughly eight months before I first started agitating publicly. In that time, I met with the former Minister for Education and the department, plans were drawn up, things were prepared, the ground was laid, the announcement was made, everything was in place, and then the funding was ripped away to be spent we do not know where. Which campus is more deserving than the largest in Queensland without such a facility? I am not sure.

Several petitions have been put into this place and I look forward to the minister's response to those petitions. I understand that the total number of signatories is 1,551, if you add those petitions together. As people would be aware, I have asked many questions in relation to this matter. Really all I need is justice for the kids of Toowoomba who attend the Wilsonton campus. They deserve the same facilities as those in schools throughout the electorates of every other member. I do not know why the students of Wilsonton are disadvantaged.