




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Schools

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): My government is a government which is committed to giving each and every Queensland child the best opportunity for quality education. We are seeing an extra 290 teachers this year, we are making prep compulsory, we are introducing a digital curriculum to prepare students for the jobs of the future and there are more guidance officers starting work in our schools. We are also making sure that communities in Queensland's growing regional centres and their children have access to quality schools.

During the recent Gladstone regional community cabinet we announced that a new high school will be built in Calliope to cope with the growing demand. This is another clear sign that we are a government which is prepared to listen to Queenslanders. Due to the decision to save the land for educational purposes, we are now able to build a new school there which will be ready for students in 2020. As well as Calliope, we have also announced two new schools in the Townsville area and the Cairns Special School. The Cairns Special School was promised by both sides at the 2012 election. For three years the LNP did not deliver on that promise. With Labor in government, that school is now budgeted for and will be delivered to that community.

Yesterday I joined the education minister and the member for Logan to announce another three schools for some of the fastest growing communities in our state. Coomera, Caloundra South and Yarrabilba will all see new schools built by 2019. All up, we will invest more than \$300 million in those seven schools to support more than 900 jobs from Cairns to Coomera. More schools for our kids and more jobs for builders and tradies—that is what my government is all about.