




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

ADJOURNMENT

**The Good Foundation, Jamie's Ministry of Food; State Schools, Maintenance;
Parker, Councillor P**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (1.45 am): As both the member for Woodridge and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, it is a privilege to deliver initiatives that I know have the capacity to positively improve the health of my electorate. It was great to recently announce the expansion in Queensland of Jamie's Ministry of Food—a community based cooking program inspiring people to get back to basics in the kitchen by equipping them with simple skills and knowledge. I am proud to say that our government has committed \$1.34 million over the next 2½ years to The Good Foundation to continue the Jamie's Ministry of Food program in electorates just like Woodridge. I was especially proud to recently make this announcement in Logan, where this program has already worked wonders via visits from its mobile kitchen.

This new agreement will focus on growing the program's reach across Queensland. That will include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, young people, those on low incomes and Queenslanders living in rural and remote communities. This is welcome news for Woodridge, because it means that families and other groups within my electorate needing additional support will be given the chance to learn basic food and cooking skills and practical tips to help them achieve better health. By making this program available to individuals across the length and breadth of Queensland, including my constituents, we can change the way they and their families eat and how they think about food, which will, in turn, lead to a healthier Queensland and a healthier Woodridge electorate.

Over the summer break, local tradies were also building a better Woodridge electorate by upgrading school facilities in my electorate to make sure that the children of Woodridge are learning in quality classrooms. I am pleased to say that in Woodridge this meant upgrades to three schools. Woodridge North State School enjoyed a refurbishment of blocks B, C and D, totalling \$218,000. Woodridge State High School is now benefiting from improved access to its special education program block, worth almost \$200,000. Mabel Park State High School's budding young scientists learning in their school's J block are relishing new roof repairs—a \$243,000 project. This is all part of our government's commitment to not only build better schools in Woodridge but also provide valuable jobs for local tradies.

I would like to acknowledge retiring Logan City Council Mayor, Councillor Pam Parker. In Pam Parker the people of Logan found a champion who was superbly equipped to fight for them with a passion for and commitment to Logan that was both self-evident and infectious. I know firsthand, from the work that we have done jointly in the service of Woodridge residents, that her motivation has always been drawn from her commitment to make the lives of people better. I take this opportunity to put on the parliamentary record my sincere thanks to Pam for her tireless work to change the image of our region, to unleash the potential of its people and to harness the energy and great diversity of Logan City. Pam is a true credit to Logan and to Woodridge, and she leaves both of them better places for her service.