




Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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**EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE:  
REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise to make a short contribution to this report on school maintenance. Maintenance is very important for the electorate of Gregory. There are over 50 schools in the electorate of Gregory—starting with the Duaringa State School on the eastern side of the electorate and stretching on the western side to Longreach State High School and Longreach Primary School. Of course, we cannot forget the Longreach School of Distance Education which does a fantastic job. The schools in the seat of Gregory are vast, from one-teacher and two-teacher schools like Tresswell and Mistake Creek to large schools such as Emerald State High School, Longreach State High School and Quilpie State College—a fantastic school. Maintenance is incredibly important to these schools. There are a lot of schools to keep the maintenance up to.

Travelling around the seat of Gregory, I managed to catch up with the local principals plus the teachers but also importantly the P&Cs who do a lot of fundraising to try to keep up the maintenance at those schools. I remember about 12 months ago going to the Capella State High School, where years of drought had seen much of the playing field very much in a state of disrepair because of the lack of getting a bore going. We were able to eventually get that bore going with a bit of pressure. I do thank the minister for funding that bore at the Capella State High School, but it did require me to jump the fence and take a photo and get it into the media to get the attention of the government.

One of the concerning things is that there are schools out there that do need to continue to maintain their maintenance. I call on the government to make sure that we maintain the maintenance for schools in the western part of Queensland. I visited a school the other day where we saw guttering which had come off, pipes leaking—even the electric water cooler was leaking. I think it is important that those schools have a maintenance budget so they can repair any damage to those schools.

The 50 schools in the electorate of Gregory are very important. They play a critical role in educating our future leaders. Certainly I pay tribute to all of the principals and the teachers who work hand in hand with the P&Cs and who work hand in hand with the community to make sure that those schools are maintained. We have to make sure that the maintenance budgets for schools in Western Queensland are maintained because some of those schools do not have the capacity like some schools in the south-east where they can have funding arrangements. Some of those schools in Western Queensland only have six or seven children at those schools, but the maintenance is just as expensive as at other schools which have more students. I call on the government to make sure that we maintain maintenance programs and maintenance funding for schools right across the seat of Gregory.