




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gumdale State School

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.45 pm): 2016 is shaping up as a very exciting year for one of my local primary schools—Gumdale State School. This incredible school has come on in leaps and bounds over the past decade and has quickly grown to be one of the most in demand educational facilities in my Chatsworth electorate. However, as a result of the rapid increase in numbers, we have seen students forced into cramped classrooms, rosters set up for the use of the oval and an overcrowded parents' car park.

The school had been struggling with these issues as more families moved into the local catchment, putting more pressure on the capabilities of the school. The plight of the school was brought to my attention when I was first elected in 2012. I made it my focus to see the Gumdale master plan delivered and become a reality.

I am pleased to inform the House that, at the end of last year, after more than three years of campaigning on the school's behalf, the project was finally signed off. Already this year we have seen construction start on phase 1a which sees a new school oval built on department of education land which lies adjacent to the school as well as a new car park. In addition to this, phase 1b is being constructed at the same time, delivering new science and arts precincts to cater to the growing needs of the students.

In a moment of bipartisanship, I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Education for seeing this project remain a priority for Gumdale State School, as these works will boost the ability of the school to service the growing local community. While this is a great step forward, I will continue to work with Gumdale State School and the department of education to ensure this project is just the beginning for this dynamic and vibrant school.

New classrooms are still urgently required for the students as we need to work together to get students out of demountable buildings and facilities into quality classrooms. I will now lobby to keep the Gumdale master plan on the agenda so that phase 2 may quickly follow the completion of phase 1.

I am pleased to advise that work should be completed in the coming months, and I look forward to attending the celebrations. I have often said that as a politician I am not interested in cutting ribbons and appearing on official plaques. What drives me as a member of parliament is providing material improvements to the lifestyle of my constituents and to provide enduring facilities that stand long after my time as a parliamentarian in this place.

I congratulate the Gumdale State School P&C and the wonderful local community for their help and encouragement in continuing my relentless quest to see the master plan come to fruition. The journey has indeed been worthwhile.

Like many members in this chamber, I am sometimes asked why I ran for parliament. In the coming weeks when I hear kids getting out at lunchtime and laughing and playing on the new sporting oval, that will be one of the reasons I am proud to be a state member of parliament.