




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Schools, Toowoomba South

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (8.33 pm): I rise tonight to continue my advocacy for a number of schools in my electorate. For the last 12 months I have been fighting to make sure that students in my electorate have the best education possible and that they are able to receive that education safely—getting to and from the school gate—in as comfortable a learning environment as possible. I have been working with the Glensvale State School community, particularly parents Melissa Greensill and Jess Errington, to address issues arising from the remarkable growth in the western Toowoomba corridor. The school, which has doubled in size since 2000, sits in the middle of an area that will cater for an additional 30,000 people by 2050. We need to immediately address the safety concerns on Glensvale Road and provide another access point to the school. Immediate action is necessary because of the development that has commenced adjacent to the school. The Brisbane developer has dug up the site in the last fortnight and construction will shortly commence that will wrap the school in even more houses. The challenge of getting 800 kids to school across a road with 2,200 vehicles traversing it will only grow in the future.

In the next suburb there are also safety concerns about getting children to and from Harristown State School and Harristown State High School. I have spoken with parents, principals, lollipop volunteers, the Toowoomba Regional Council, Neighbourhood Watch Area 14 representatives, area coordinator Brian Jentz and secretary Weena Gillon to discuss these issues further. We need to continue adding protective measures in the surrounding streets so that parents are assured that their kids can securely move to and from school. I will keep fighting for parents and students and will keep working with stakeholders to make sure that occurs.

Over at Darling Heights State School—and it is now wonderful to have all of Darling Heights within my electorate—I have met with parent groups and principal Mark Creedon in respect of special education program students, who sweltered through heatwave conditions at the start of this year. There is urgency to this matter, with summer around the corner. We need to ensure that special education program students will be kept cool in the years ahead. I will continue working together with the P&C, which has already funded some air-conditioning units throughout the school, and the school leadership to find a solution to this problem.

Toowoomba is often described as Queensland's education capital, with outstanding state schools such as Centenary Heights and Harristown; Catholic schools such as St Anthony's and St Thomas More's; and independent schools including some of the nation's finest boarding schools. Educators and parents make the stand-out contribution to making Toowoomba the education capital. I will continue to do everything I am able to do to support them in their efforts.