



Speech By
Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 10 October 2017

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Lenton, Mr G; Gladstone Electorate, Education Funding

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.30 pm): Firstly, I also would like to pay my respects to the family of Graham ‘Butch’ Lenton, who passed recently. I knew Butch through my association with Queensland Rugby League, particularly during my time on the Central Queensland Rugby League committee. Butch will be very sadly missed by not only everyone in his community but also everyone in the Rugby League world. Rest in peace, mate.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to Queenslanders to improve education for every student in every school. We have employed more teachers and teacher aides. We are investing \$152 million over three years through our extra teachers commitment. This investment has more than restored the 500 teachers who were cut from Queensland state schools by the LNP during its term. We are addressing the school maintenance backlog and we are making record investment in infrastructure, because we know that quality education opens doors for our children. The Palaszczuk government is investing for the future and delivering on the school facilities that our students—and teachers—need to make the most of their education. The Palaszczuk government appreciates that every child should benefit from a quality education no matter where they live in this great state.

The Palaszczuk government’s record infrastructure investment has delivered for the students, teachers and families in my electorate. Over the past 2½ years, I have been working hard to secure additional funding for schools in the Gladstone electorate. It is great to see that the Palaszczuk government and the Minister for Education are equally committed to delivering the infrastructure that is needed in the Gladstone electorate. This infrastructure will cater for the growing student population of my electorate. It will make sure that the students and teachers of my electorate have the best possible learning facilities.

For our students to have the best chance of success, we need to ensure that our state schools continue to be quality learning environments. Our teachers and school staff deserve access to the infrastructure and facilities that they need to support the great work they do in our schools. I know that for some of these school communities, such as those at Rosella Park School—which I am very passionate about—these results are a combination of lots of lobbying, P&C members lodging petitions and generally a heap of work done on the ground. I am absolutely thrilled to be delivering this infrastructure for my community, particularly at Rosella Park School.

Labor is investing over \$4 million in this special school, with a new administration block, a car park, classrooms and an upgraded playground. This school funding is a welcome addition to my region. I look forward to seeing this important project opened in the next week or so for the benefit of the school’s extra special teachers and staff and its wonderful students. On many occasions I have visited

Rosella Park School. I know that the principal, Kate Russ, is over the moon with this new administration building for her and her staff. The wonderful staff of this special school in Gladstone deserve these facilities and I am happy to be the member who has delivered it.

The electorate of Gladstone is having an infrastructure boom in education, with most schools in the electorate receiving much needed investment. Ambrose State School received \$202,000 for a new tuckshop. Boyne Island State School received \$250,000 for a new car park and \$1.2 million for a hall upgrade. Last week I was happy to turn the first sod for that upgrade. Calliope State School, which is now in the electorate of Callide, received a new building at a cost of \$6.5 million. I was happy to be out there the other day. Clinton State School received a new building for \$5.5 million. That building will be opened in the next couple of weeks. Gladstone Central State School received \$75,000 for an expansion of its tuckshop. Gladstone State High School has received additional classrooms for \$500,000. The high school also has a new hospitality kitchen—and I spent some time there with the students—for \$1 million. Also, that school received \$6 million for new classrooms. That building should be finished in the next month or so. Kin Kora State School received an upgrade to its special education unit, which I have also visited, with \$250,000. Tannum Sands State School received \$200,000 to refurbish its classroom. Toolooa State High School received \$1.5 million to upgrade its hall.

I am proud to say that we are continuing to deliver the Calliope high school. One of the best parts of my job when I was elected was to rip down the 'for sale' sign that the LNP had put up on the block of land on which we are building that school.

Ms Grace: It is the same with Fortitude Valley.

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection from the minister.