




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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ADJOURNMENT

Wavell Heights State School, Performing Arts Hall

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.00 pm): It is a pleasure to rise in this House to talk about the new \$6 million performing arts hall to be built at Wavell State High School, announced yesterday. Firstly, I congratulate Principal Jeff Major, P&C President Greg Rodgers and the many passionate teachers, parents and students who have worked so hard, for many years now, to secure funding for this needed infrastructure. I have been advocating strongly for this project since being elected as the member for Nudgee in January 2015.

In my local community, Wavell State High School has a strong and proud reputation of excellence in academic, cultural and sporting arenas. They pride themselves on offering a wide range of quality opportunities for their students to grow and to shine. They place great emphasis on encouraging values consistent with their school motto, 'Esse Quam Videri', meaning 'to be, rather than to seem to be'.

Following my election, the Wavell State High School community wasted no time in introducing me to their campaign for a new performing arts facility at the school. On my first official visit to the school, the principal and the P&C president took me on a tour of their facilities. I know it was not a coincidence that we spent much of our time viewing the existing performing arts and music rooms and the hall, one of which is affectionately or not so affectionately referred to as 'the dungeon'. The tour was very ably led by the head of the art department, Kate, whose enthusiasm for the project is undeniable.

Soon after followed the invitation to attend the school's 2015 musical production of *The Wiz*. I was tremendously impressed by the talent and professionalism displayed by the students. However, watching the musicians and performers trying to fit on a small stage in a facility that can only hold half the school community at any one time and that is hot, stuffy and tired, it was undeniable that their existing hall is limiting the students and the school. Next followed the letters and emails from passionate parents and students who wanted their voices to be heard in outlining what a new facility would mean to them.

The Wavell State High School community put their faith in me to deliver this project and I was determined not to let them down. Since 2015, I have held discussions with the Queensland Treasurer, the Minister for Education, their offices, their departments and my Education Queensland regional director to put on the record my unequivocal support for this project and to advocate for its inclusion in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 state budgets. In this House I have spoken about the need for this project and I have written repeatedly to the Minister for Education seeking a funding commitment. I have brought the principal in to parliament to meet with the minister and I have invited the education minister to visit the school to see the existing facilities firsthand, and I am tremendously grateful that she did.

However, all of my efforts are far overshadowed by the sustained efforts of the Wavell State High School community, which I again pay tribute to here today. Wavell, I know how important this facility is to your school community. It has been an absolute pleasure to work hand-in-hand with you, education minister Kate Jones and the Palaszczuk Labor government to see it delivered for our community.