




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADJOURNMENT

Pine Rivers Electorate, Education

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (10.51 pm): Recently I was able to announce a \$3 million upgrade to extend the Bray Park State High School multipurpose hall. The school community has been calling for an extension to the hall for over a decade—

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms BOYD: I will take that interjection from the minister. After it was irresponsibly announced as an unfunded promise by my predecessor, I made it a priority to deliver it once I was elected.

Ms Jones interjected.

Ms BOYD: I will take that interjection too. Currently the school budgets many thousands of dollars to hire fit-for-purpose venues for event nights. This upgrade will provide essential learning and performance spaces for HPE and the arts, along with the provision of a much needed showcase space for all school community events, including awards evenings. I have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback from students, the faculty and the P&C. I particularly want to acknowledge the hard work and perseverance of principal Kirsten Ferdinands and P&C president Kent Funnell.

In addition, to this project I announced the fast-tracked investment of \$63,000 to install shade structures, bus stops and a school hall fan at Pine Rivers State High School. I want to acknowledge the minister who is in the chamber for her work in achieving this in my local community.

Our government is determined to give every student in every school the best possible education. That means delivering the teachers, curriculum and school facilities we need to give students the best chance at success. These projects in my local state high schools will also create vital jobs for local tradies and more opportunities for apprentices and trainees. Aside from the recent announcement, in this financial year alone there has been over \$1.4 million in increased infrastructure investment in local schools in my community, and an investment of nine teachers above growth.

Just down the road is the proposed Petrie uni project. I have been campaigning with my community for the better part of a year to secure funding and for it to finally be recognised in the federal budget. It will see a capital investment and concessional loan to the University of the Sunshine Coast to have the campus built, giving security to get this project up and running by 2020.

Sadly, what this budget also saw was \$2.8 billion cut out for the university sector. Locally I have been campaigning for a local uni, which Labor believes should be accessible to all in our community and not just the wealthy. This view is at odds with the federal government and its budget, which will see a 7.5 per cent increase in student HECS fees.

I have also been campaigning for a fully funded uni with trade skills training, yet this federal government and their budget has walked away from the vocational skills sector. They have walked away from the national partnership agreement and investment in vocational skills in this space that we are in desperate need of, not just in our community but right across our nation.

Our community needs to be congratulated on our campaign to hold the federal government to account on this project. There will be more work to do in the future to maximise this asset in our community. We know that the future of my community depends on our education system, not just for our kids but also for the thousands who have been made redundant or shut out of our economy. Education is how we regain an advantage.

(Time expired)