




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Wilsonton State High School

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.19 am): Today I would like to pay tribute to the members of the Wilsonton State High School P&C and in particular David van Tricht. The P&C and the teachers and students of Wilsonton have been campaigning for a long time to get a school hall. I have been their strong voice in this place for a long time. One of my disappointments after we lost the election in 2015 was that I knew this school hall would not be built because at the last election Labor said it would not build it. It said it would not give the school the hall they needed to become a complete campus, so I became their strong voice and their advocate in this place. I worked very hard to make sure that the minister knew that this was a very strong Labor voting area and that if she did not build this school hall there would be no chance of Labor ever taking back the seat of Toowoomba North.

That pressure worked in spades last August, when the minister announced that she would provide the funding for the school hall. This was a great announcement. I was very pleased on that occasion to have had the success we did, with the help and assistance of the teachers, parents and P&C of Wilsonton high school. However, that was not enough because the announcement that was made in August 2016 was that the money would be available in the financial year coming up—that is, the 2017-18 financial year. I started a campaign to make sure this hall was not only started then but also finished before the beginning of the academic year in 2018 so that the school hall could in fact be used as a classroom and a teaching space and be an integral part of the campus, rather than having it opened later.

It has taken questions on notice, it has taken phone calls, it has taken a petition, it has taken lots of things to get the attention of the minister, but today the minister has yielded to the demands of the people of Wilsonton and she has brought forward the timing so that it will be completed and available for use as an academic space in 2018. This just goes to show what can be provided in opposition. This is what can be achieved if opposition members work hard and have their community behind them. We have got something delivered that even the government's own member would not commit to going into the last election. This is something that Labor was unable to fund and unable to deliver, yet it has yielded to my pressure and the pressure of the people of Wilsonton and has said that it will build the school hall and have it ready by 2018.