



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Heatley, School Security; Thurston, Mr J**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.57 pm): At the November 2017 state election the suburb of Heatley became part of the electorate of Thuringowa. As a former student of Heatley high school, I am very proud to be representing both Heatley Secondary College and Heatley State School. My initial interactions with these schools followed on from the very good work of the member for Mundingburra, Minister Coralee O'Rourke, who formerly represented the suburb of Heatley.

It was my intent to continue to strongly lobby for funding for school infrastructure in Heatley including security fences for both schools. During the election campaign I had direct conversations with many residents, the broader school community, P&Cs, staff and students. I am grateful for their support, as they have assisted me with my petition, which has been supported by 555 petitioners. I now table a nonconforming petition which calls for support for Heatley Secondary College and Heatley State School to secure fully funded security fencing.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition, titled 'Petition to secure funding for Heatley Secondary College security fencing and improved facilities' [\[716\]](#).

The petition reads—

We the undersigned support our State Member, Aaron Harper MP in seeking Funding for a Security Fence for both Heatley Secondary College & Heatley State Primary School. Both schools are less than 2 Km away from each other and have had continual issues with vandalism & damage to resources causing financial & emotional stress on the schools community.

2018 is a special year. It marks the celebration of Heatley high school's 50th anniversary. I look forward to joining former students and staff during those significant celebrations, to be held later this year.

I sincerely thank those people for signing my petition, a copy of which I have given to the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to whom I have made representations regarding funding for security fences. I want to acknowledge principals Steve Miskin and Louise Wilkinson, the P&Cs, staff and their respective unions—United Voice, Together and Queensland Teachers' Union—for advocating so strongly for improved facilities. I cannot wait to see these fences come to fruition and create local jobs over our term of government.

While I am on my feet talking about the success of petitions, I want to share with other members of the House that the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and I will be starting a petition to call for Johnathan Thurston to have a bronze statue erected in front of the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium. We know the important contribution that JT has made to the Cowboys, we know the important contribution he has made off the field and I know the three of us can rally the troops of North Queensland, particularly Townsville, to support us to ensure that North Queensland has its own bronze statue. They can have one down here in front of Suncorp Stadium, and we will call on the sports minister, Mick de Brenni, to help us out as well. The people of Townsville need to put JT up on a pedestal. We can do this.

**Mr Power:** What about Riverway Drive?

**Mr HARPER:** Riverway Drive is a great place.