




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (7.15 pm): It gives me great pleasure this evening to pay tribute to the great schools of the electorate of Woodridge, to the children who attend them and the parents who support them, to the principals who lead them and the teachers and other staff members who make them amongst the best in Queensland. Could I acknowledge, Mr Speaker, members of the Woodridge school community here in the gallery tonight? They include parents, principals and staff of Crestmead State School, Logan City Special School, Yugumbir State School, Berrinba East State School, Groves Christian College, St Francis College Crestmead, Woodridge State School, Kingston State School, St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Marsden State School and Harris Fields State School. I want to thank them for the great contribution they make to our community.

There is no greater investment a society can make than the investment it makes in the education of its young people. Woodridge is a very special place, and I count it as one of the great privileges of my life to have been given by those who live there the honour of representing them in this House. Our community is distinguished and enriched by its diversity and is drawn from one of the broadest ethnic and cultural mixes in the country. People come to our special part of Queensland, sometimes from traumatic and oppressive circumstances, seeking freedom and opportunity and the chance to build a better life for themselves and their family.

The Woodridge electorate also has areas of disadvantage, where people understand only too well what it means to have to struggle to get by. Disadvantage is not a lifestyle choice but all too often the dividend of the circumstances into which people are born. Education, however, is the engine of opportunity, the means by which a society enables all of its people the mechanism by which to change the direction of their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our principals and our teachers, our teacher aides, cleaners, admin staff and ground staff and others including P&C and P&F members. These are the people who turn up every day with no other objective than to improve the lives and enhance the prospects of the young people in their care. The work is challenging, and the good they do may not always be immediately apparent, but there are surely few professions that could claim a more noble purpose. We owe them a great debt, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my respect and appreciation for the work that they do.

I am proud of the record investment our government has made in education in the 2018-19 state budget, and I am proud of the millions of dollars that have been provided for our schools in Woodridge since our government was first elected in 2015. These improvements, although important, tell only a fraction of the education story. They support but can never replace the interaction between the teacher and student, the power of knowledge and the splendour of learning, and the personal enrichment and social mobility that a quality education provides. Woodridge is a great community made a little better each and every day by the wonderful work going on in our schools.