




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): There is no better investment than an investment in Queensland's future and in education. Of course, Queensland students are our future. That is why the Palaszczuk government is delivering the school infrastructure that our students need for a world-class education.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of meeting some wonderful state school students and principal John Schuh at Ferny Grove State High School, where we made an important announcement about education infrastructure. With the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Jackie Trad, and the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and member for Ferny Grove, Mark Furner, we announced \$250 million for additional infrastructure in more than 60 secondary schools over the next two years to make sure that our state high schools are 2020 ready. Including this financial year, our investment in schools to be 2020 ready represents an amount of \$470 million over three years. That funding is one part of a much larger education infrastructure budget soon to be announced. The investment will ensure that our high schools can accommodate an expected additional 17,000 students from 2020 and into the future. We are preparing for a significant new era in Queensland's education system from 2020. That is the year that our original preppies, who started school in 2007 as a smaller group of students, will no longer be in our school system. When they graduate at the end of 2019, for the first time we will have a full complement of students across all six year levels in Queensland high schools.

The Palaszczuk government is planning for and delivering the infrastructure we need for the future. One-third of the schools to benefit from the '2020 Ready' program are outside the south-east corner. In addition, we expect this statewide program will create more than 700 jobs for Queenslanders. Ferny Grove State High School is receiving a new \$18 million three-storey classroom building and STEM learning centre. In Toowoomba South, Harristown State High School is receiving a new three-storey learning centre with 14 classrooms and new science labs. Another \$10 million will be invested at Centenary Heights State High School to make it 2020 ready. In Buderim, Chancellor State College will receive a new three-storey building with 19 new classrooms, valued at more than \$12 million. I know that the 2020 Ready infrastructure projects will be welcomed by those school communities.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs GRACE: I am proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk government that is prioritising education and delivering our students with the education infrastructure we need for the future. I hear those opposite yelling out some of the schools in their areas. I say to them, have a look at the list because there is good news all around for Queensland schools.