




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

State Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government has a plan to deliver the new schools, new halls, new classrooms and school facilities that Queensland students need to be 2020 ready, and beyond. This year we plan to spend almost \$1 billion to deliver school infrastructure across the state. That investment will support nearly 2,700 full-time construction jobs.

Four new primary schools have been opened this year at Baringa, Picnic Creek, Townsville North Shore and Yarrabilba. I am sure that the member for Logan will agree with me when I say that Yarrabilba, which we officially opened only last week, is a fantastic school that is much loved by students, teachers and families. In fact, due to strong enrolment growth—

Mr SPEAKER: Apologies, Minister. Member for Maryborough and member for Caloundra, you are both warned under standing orders.

Ms GRACE:—there are almost 100 extra students since the school opened. We fast-tracked construction on stage 2 of the Yarrabilba State School, which I am pleased to report is already being used.

Last week I officially opened the new \$6.7 million classroom block at Ironside State School, with the member for Maiwar. That building is now home to more than 240 year 5 and year 6 students, and it also houses the after-school care services on the ground level.

I am pleased to report that strong progress is being made on the inner-city north and inner-city south secondary schools. Those two projects will deliver a once-in-a-generation change to the way secondary schooling is delivered. The construction contract for the inner-city north secondary college has recently been awarded to Hutchinson Builders and I am looking forward to turning the sod very soon. This week, as the Deputy Premier would be aware, local residents in the inner southern suburbs are having their say on the design of their new high school.

This year, almost \$117 million is being invested in building new and upgraded halls at 30 state schools across the state. Last week during State Education Week, I was pleased to join the Premier and the member for Cairns to officially open the new multipurpose hall at Trinity Bay State High School. What a great experience that was. That impressive \$6 million facility has provided an enormous boost to the school's talented athlete academy program and opened up new opportunities for wider engagement with local sporting organisations.

I have also been joined by local members to officially open new and refurbished halls at Bounty Boulevard, Toolooa, Mabel Park, Balmoral, Wilsonton and Kingaroy state high schools. The Palaszczuk government's education infrastructure spend is not only providing students with fantastic facilities but also generating much needed local jobs right throughout Queensland.