




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering schools where they are needed to ensure every young Queenslander receives the quality education they deserve. That is why we are investing \$808 million through our Building Future Schools Fund to deliver new and upgraded schools to support our growing communities across the state.

As both the education minister and the member for McConnel, I know all too well that the demand to live and learn in the city has never been greater—with our inner-city suburbs growing almost twice as fast as the state average. That is why the Palaszczuk government is building two new secondary schools, at Fortitude Valley and Dutton Park.

I am pleased to be able to inform the House that work on building the new inner-city north secondary college has now begun. I look forward to turning the first sod on site with the Premier today. As the first new school to be built in Brisbane's inner city in more than 50 years, this secondary college will be a game changer. It will also be the first vertical state school built in Queensland. The vertical design maximises the small site footprint, enabling the delivery of the school buildings, a sports centre, a performing arts centre and an oval.

The new college has been purposely designed to integrate into the urban setting and will feature flexible, creative and innovative learning spaces and embedded technology to meet contemporary educational needs. As with all new schools, the school will be delivered in stages. The Brookes Street precinct will be completed in readiness for the start of school in 2020 and will provide an exciting new learning environment for up to 250 year 7 foundation students. By mid-2020, the college will be able to accommodate up to 750 students. The school's capacity will progressively increase to 1,500 students from years 7 to 12 by 2025 and onwards.

Two further milestones on the journey to deliver this exciting project will also be achieved today. The proposed catchment for the new college has today been released for public consultation, and the Department of Education has opened expressions of interest for student enrolments using the same process that applies for other schools across Queensland. The proposed school enrolment management plan will prioritise local students to ensure we relieve pressure on inner-city enrolments.

As education minister and the member for McConnel, I am proud that from 2020 the former Fortitude Valley State School site will again become a school, having been saved from being sold to the highest bidder. This project, to be built by Queensland's own Hutchinson Builders, will support 300 jobs during construction. Principal Sharon Barker and I are looking forward to consulting with the community about the new name for the college, and already great options have been suggested.