




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Advancing Clean Energy Schools

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.10 pm): I want to inform the House about Advancing Clean Energy Schools. Given the last couple of speakers, it is nice to talk about something positive. Advancing Clean Energy Schools is an outstanding program and a wonderful initiative. Some \$50 million a year is spent on energy in our schools. Over its three-year program, this is expected to save around about \$10 million. One of the benefits of this is that that money gets injected back into the schools and does not go off into other areas, so any savings schools make will be kept by the schools themselves.

The program will deliver a reduction in energy costs across all state schools in Queensland and a contribution of approximately 35 milliwatts to the government's one million rooftops or 3,000 megawatts of solar by 2020. This is obviously going to be part of a raft of initiatives which will go to the government's 50 per cent renewable energy goal by 2030. We will see improved energy efficiency in Queensland state schools and, more importantly, reduced environmental impacts for school operations.

The Department of Education is seeking to appoint prequalified partners across seven of its regions. Selected partners will be engaged under a prequalified supplier deed. The evaluation process will occur in two stages. The first stage will involve an assessment of offers received against the following criteria: firstly, capability and relevant experience; secondly, the capacity to deliver; and, finally, alignment with the state's objectives. Short-listed partners will be contacted and followed up, but this is another opportunity where local businesses will be able to provide their services and benefit from it.

Last week in my electorate of Cairns I had the pleasure of joining the member for Mulgrave at Parramatta State School, where we looked at this initiative and announced it. Not only are the teachers and principals excited; the kids are excited, because these days they want to see some positive things happening. The Department of Education will consider all technologies and solutions that meet the project objectives outlined, but it will cover a raft of activities such as hot-water systems and a reduction of electricity at certain times in the evening. As I have said, this government, unlike others, has a strategy and this is one of those policies that we are implementing to ensure we have a cleaner and more efficient future. Finally, all proposals must be submitted through QTenders. The completion date will be some time in the next two months, so if people want to jump online they can apply. This is good for the local economy, it is good for local businesses, it is good for jobs and it is good for schools.