




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Wilsonton State High School

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.43 pm): There is a great day coming up in Toowoomba. Shortly we will have the official opening of the Wilsonton State High School hall. This project was started by my colleague John-Paul Langbroek when he was the minister for education. He worked with me, Chris Zilm, who was the then principal, and David van Tricht and Melinda Dick from the P&C to get this project underway.

It is a school that desperately needed a hall, as many members would have heard me speak about on many occasions—yourself included I am sure, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart. This will be a great event. This school deserves this hall. It is a great facility. It was a battle to get there. There was a period of time when the previous minister, the member for Cooper, did not want to build it, but she changed her mind and built it. The children and the community definitely deserve the hall.

I have to apologise to Marcus Jones, the current principal. I have the tie pin but I did not bring it with me to the chamber. He is a very proud principal of the school. This hall has enhanced the school's capacity not just for the children but also for the entire community. Their motto is 'Stand strong, stand proud, stand together'. They were unable to do that before this hall was built. They had nowhere they could stand together. They had nowhere they could meet. They had nowhere they could celebrate their achievements. It is a great outcome. The community, the P&C, the previous principal and the current principal have all worked incredibly hard to bring this to fruition.

There are a couple of other great things that have happened at the Wilsonton State High School that I want to highlight as well. I am sure that the minister when she visits will get an opportunity to see these particular programs. We have a Beyond the Broncos program, which is exclusively for the girls at Wilsonton. It is the biggest Beyond the Broncos program running in Queensland, I am told. They have 80 girls there at the moment. Currently, it is only a three-day program. I am hoping we can see that program expanded to a five-day program. It is really making a difference in achieving outcomes for students. They are staying to year 12, getting their leaving certificate and staying engaged in school.

For the boys, we have the Clontarf program, which has had tremendous success. It is a great program. I get around to see them often with their activities. It is making a real difference in the community in and around Wilsonton and in and around the school. It will be a great day to see the school hall opened. I am pleased that the minister will be able to come. I hope that there will be time to look at those two programs which are making a big difference to the educational outcomes for Wilsonton.

(Time expired)