




Speech By
Brittany Lauga

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

MOTION

State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended this evening. Since it was elected four years ago, the Palaszczuk government has made giving Queensland kids a great start a top priority. As a result, we have seen record investment in new and enhanced school infrastructure; additional teachers, teacher aides and support staff; and a focus on programs that will make our students the global citizens of tomorrow.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has delivered 13 new schools in the fastest growing parts of the state. There are now some 2,000 more classrooms being used at state schools from Cape York to Coolangatta today compared to when the Palaszczuk government was first elected. Since 2015 we have also delivered 33 new school halls and nine performing arts centres at state schools across the state.

In the past four years the Palaszczuk government has employed more than 4,000 additional full-time-equivalent teachers, from just over 42,000 at the start of 2015 to more than 46,000 today. We have also employed more than 1,500 additional full-time-equivalent teacher aides. Today there are around 10,900 teacher aides in Queensland schools compared to around 9,300 in January 2015.

In relation to air conditioning, more than 3,500 classrooms in almost 400 state schools in the hottest and most humid parts of the state—the Cooler Schools zone—already have air conditioning installed. Outside the Cooler Schools zone, schools make decisions in consultation with their community and many have installed air conditioning in classrooms using minor works allocations and P&C funding.

The Palaszczuk government's record of achievement stands in stark contrast to the record of education cuts, sackings and closures from those opposite when they were in government. When those opposite were in government they said that they could not afford it—even with a massive multibillion dollar Strong Choices slush fund which they would have had access to after flogging off our assets. When those opposite were in government, instead of building for enrolment growth across the state they closed schools without community consultation and threatened to sell them off. They failed to properly maintain the state's then 1,234 schools and left behind a \$260 million backlog of critical school maintenance. In addition to closing schools and failing to build for enrolment growth, the LNP cut more than 500 teachers from Queensland schools—on their way to sacking a total of 14,000 public servants across the state. But now in opposition they suddenly have all the answers. What then Minister Langbroek said could not be done in 2014 suddenly they can do at the flick of a switch. It is all very easy in opposition, isn't it?

Mr Stevens: You'll find out soon enough!

Mrs LAUGA: You can solve all the world's problems with a single thought bubble. I think you will be experiencing opposition for a little while longer. The hard work of government is a different matter—working through competing priorities, consulting with stakeholders and finding the money to properly

fund initiatives. The LNP made such a hash of government the last time around—they were elected for the first time in 20 years and the people of Queensland turfed them out in less than three years with the loss of almost 40 seats. If you want to come into this House claiming you now have all the answers, put your money where your mouth is.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Keppel, direct your comments through the chair.

Mrs LAUGA: How are those opposite going to fund it? How are those opposite going to implement it? What are those opposite going to cut in order to fund it? Let us have no more thought bubbles and no more carping from the sideline. Show the people of Queensland you have done the serious policy work required from an alternative government. Otherwise it is just more hot air from an incompetent opposition.