




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Woodridge Electorate, Education

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.21 pm): As I have said in this House many times, the honour of representing the people of the Woodridge electorate is the greatest privilege of my career. The community of Woodridge and greater Logan is one of the most culturally diverse in the country. That community's character is defined by the way they encourage and celebrate that diversity and difference.

Central to what makes the Woodridge electorate great is the importance that is placed on the transformative power of education. The schools in my electorate ensure that our young people have the skills and knowledge they need to thrive and become strong and productive citizens. In and around the electorate of Woodridge, many schools are doing fantastic work to support and serve their community.

Tonight, I am fortunate to be delivering this speech in the House with representatives of six of those schools in the gallery: Groves Christian College; Kingston State College; Marsden State High School; Mabel Park State High School; St Francis College, Crestmead; and the mighty Woodridge State High School. Recently, the year 7s from Groves Christian College travelled to Canberra where, among other things, they visited our federal parliament. I am pleased that those school students again get an opportunity to experience democracy in action tonight. I hope this visit further enriches their understanding of our government. I congratulate the year 9 students from Kingston State College, who recently completed the Australian Business and Community Network GOALS program. This initiative inspires individuals and promotes opportunity. I hope it makes decisions about future careers easier for all of the students involved in the program.

On the football field, recently, Marsden State High School and Mabel Park State High School scored some great Rugby League results, of which both schools should be incredibly proud. Marsden State High School went all the way to the 2019 Queensland Rugby League schoolboys grand final and should have beaten Kirwan State High School. Mabel Park State High School's girls Rugby League program was the best in Queensland for the second year in a row.

Currently, the creativity of Woodridge State High School students is on display at the Logan Art Gallery, with a number of students showcasing their inspiring work as part of the always impressive *Artwaves* exhibition. As a former health minister, I am so pleased to see the success that St Francis College is having with its school's health hub, which is giving students the unique opportunity to complete certificates in health support services while at school.

Education is the means by which a society perpetuates its values and affirms its social purpose. Our schools are the engine room of social mobility and opportunity and the greatest tool we have to attack and remedy the malady of disadvantage. Tonight, I pay tribute to the leadership provided by the principals and their executive teams and acknowledge the diligence and professionalism of all of those

educators and support staff who work so hard to enrich the lives of young people in my community. I am enormously proud of the schools in and around the Woodridge electorate. I commend and thank them for everything they do for the students and the families in my community.