




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Spring Mountain State School

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.09 pm): The first day of the 2019 school year was extra special for the students of Spring Mountain State School as they took their seats in the state's newest school. It was wonderful to be joined by the Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to welcome excited families to the new school on its opening day.

As the local member, it has been so fulfilling to see the development of this new school in my electorate. From visiting the school when it was still very much a construction site to seeing students playing in the grounds on the first day, Spring Mountain State School is a \$40 million investment and one which will serve our growing community of Spring Mountain well into the future.

Spring Mountain students will enjoy state-of-the-art, new facilities including 30 modern classrooms, music and science rooms, a resource centre and a multipurpose hall. I would like to congratulate Plenary Schools and Watpac who were involved in the construction of the new school, which was the final school to be built under the \$1.52 billion Queensland Schools Public Private Partnership. They have designed and constructed a truly beautiful school. Of course we know that, whilst the physical nature of a school is an important element of the education journey, it is developing and nurturing the school community that has the most lasting impact. I would like to acknowledge Spring Mountain State School's new principal, Cherie Moore, who along with dedicated teachers and staff has already created an incredibly welcoming and inclusive school environment. This was no accident, with Principal Moore working closely with local families through a community reference group to make decisions on everything from the school name and school motto 'Leading by Example' as well as uniform colours and designs, and the very important school mascot, Monty the Lion.

I attended a public meeting with the community which was inclusive of all views and a follow-up open night for new families where they were able to delve more deeply into the curriculum, meet the new teachers and get ahead on the important uniform purchases. What was clear on these evenings and certainly on the first day of school is that our Spring Mountain families already feel a strong sense of ownership of the new school. It was wonderful to see all of the discussions, vision and decisions made by the community become a reality on day one, and I am confident that our new school in Spring Mountain will become the hub of this emerging community.

As the state member in a growing region, I want to ensure that all our schools have the capacity to meet the needs of our students. Importantly, we are also looking ahead to further emerging areas within our region. An example of this is within the growing area of Greenbank, where land has already been earmarked for a new future primary school under the Greater Flagstone priority development scheme. Our government values education. We see the incredible difference good education can make in a young person's life, and I am proud to be part of a government that continues to invest in quality education for all Queensland children.