




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Jordan Electorate, School Infrastructure

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.24 pm): Investment in education and the jobs that follow is a priority for me and for the Palaszczuk Labor government. In my electorate of Jordan I have been pleased to see progress on and completion of a number of key school infrastructure projects over the last few months. In late March it was my absolute honour to officially open the Jude Fox Learning Hub at Flagstone State Community College. Named after the late Jude Fox, foundation principal, the \$5.89 million learning hub contains five special education areas, five general learning areas and a range of other spaces including the popular life skills area. I know what a difference this new building has made to the school community, and it is wonderful recognition of a much loved educator.

I also recently visited the Hangar, an impressive \$576,000 refurbishment at Woodcrest State College which has seen a rather dated facility upgraded, ensuring students have access to state-of-the-art facilities for the skills they need in our rapidly expanding digital economy. Only last week I visited Greenbank State School, where I had the opportunity to inspect the refurbished tuckshop. In collaboration with the wonderful school P&C, the Queensland government has contributed almost half of the \$384,000 for this upgrade.

A \$2.2 million project at Springfield Central State School has recently been completed, delivering six additional learning areas, three teacher support areas, offices, meeting rooms and a new covered play area. This is all catering for the increased enrolment growth at this popular school and will be well utilised. The same can be said for Augusta State School, with construction now underway on an exciting \$6.3 million new multistorey learning centre that will deliver eight new learning spaces and with the potential to grow even further. Finally, I am pleased to see great progress on the Springfield Central State High School multipurpose hall and community centre—a \$9.89 million project which is highly anticipated by students, staff and the community.

It has been great to see workers on site at all of these schools. These projects are all generating jobs in the building and construction industry. As Minister Grace said in this House on Tuesday, if you add in all of the projects to provide new and refurbished facilities at existing schools across the state, you will see that the Palaszczuk government is supporting around 2,700 jobs through its education infrastructure program. Imagine how many more jobs we could deliver if we had the same commitment at the federal level, rather than the \$182 million in cuts to public schools in Queensland in this year alone.

I know that federal Labor has made a significant commitment to public school education funding in Australia—an additional \$14 billion in fact. What does this mean for Jordan schools? It means that over three years all of our local state schools in Jordan would receive increased funding. Flagstone State Community College would get an additional \$1.14 million; Woodcrest State College, \$1.9 million; Springfield Central State School, \$710,000; and Greenbank State School, over \$1 million. Not only would this be a tremendous boost to public education in my electorate; it would be a tremendous boost to jobs as well.