



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Bancroft Electorate, Education Funding and School Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.12 pm): How refreshing it is to see federal Labor commit to the extra funding of schools in my electorate compared to the funding cuts that schools in my electorate have suffered under the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government. The schools in North Lakes have been amongst the biggest and fastest growing in the state. North Lakes State College is a P-12 school with about 3,000 students over two campuses. Bounty Boulevard State School is the biggest P-6 school in the state. The Palaszczuk government has been actively supporting these schools through our investment in each of these schools. For example, there is the \$16.5 million multistorey Endeavour learning centre for North Lakes State College and we have added eight new classrooms to Bounty Boulevard State School at a cost of \$2.8 million. Let us not forget the \$5 million new hall that we built at Bounty Boulevard that opened last year, and I thank the Minister for Education for opening that. It is so refreshing to hear that federal Labor has said that it would invest in these schools under a Shorten Labor government. The Labor candidate for Petrie, Corinne Mulholland, announced that there would be \$400,000 of funding to upgrade facilities at these schools under a Shorten Labor government.

**Mr Mellish:** Great work.

**Mr WHITING:** That is great work. At Bounty Boulevard State School that money would be used to enclose the early learning space. It used to be the school hall, but only two sides of that are enclosed. It will be a bonus to see that enclosed. At North Lakes State College there will be \$300,000 to upgrade an outdoor space and help support its agricultural and horticultural programs. Not only that, both of these schools will benefit from federal Labor's Fair Go for Schools program. That program will deliver \$3.3 million to North Lakes State College over three years and \$1.2 million to Bounty Boulevard State School over three years. Let us compare that to the cuts that schools not only in my electorate but also throughout Australia have suffered under the LNP federal government. In 2013 the LNP promised that there would be no cuts to education and then it cut \$14 billion from public schools, and it has not just been schools. We know that it introduced a Medicare freeze which ripped \$3 billion out of the pockets of Australians and cut \$10 billion from other health programs and agencies.

I want to say thank you to federal Labor for putting education at the core of its promises to our community. I want to thank Corinne Mulholland for delivering this promise, because education is a central value in the North Lakes community. It is one of those things that unites everyone in our community. Our local schools will always be better off under Labor. While Scott Morrison and Luke Howarth have been looking after the top end of town, they have not been looking after the schools in North Lakes.