



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

**MOTION**

**State Schools, Air Conditioning**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.07 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'calls on the LNP opposition to explain how they intend to fund and implement the LNP's plan to air-condition every Queensland state school classroom.'

Is it not interesting that when they are in government they do nothing and when they are in opposition it is all care and no responsibility? The member for Kawana gets up and quotes a candidate for the seat of Burleigh—a candidate, not even someone in this House.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock! Members to my left, there were quite limited interjections by those to my right during the member for Kawana's contribution. I would like the same courtesies to be afforded to the minister during her contribution.

**Ms GRACE:** Let me quote the member for Surfers Paradise, who was the minister for education when they were in government. Let me quote someone who was actually in government at the time and could have done something about air conditioning in classrooms. What does he say? 'The state government cannot afford to fit out every Queensland school—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth.

**Ms GRACE:**—with air conditioning—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth.

**Ms GRACE:**—due to an estimated \$2 billion cost.'

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, I have called you out three times. Either be responsive or remove yourself from the chamber if you cannot do that during the debate.

**Ms GRACE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is unruly. It really is unnecessary. That was said by the member for Surfers Paradise on 10 December 2014. Three weeks before they went to the election they said they could not afford it. The then minister said that they should be looking at other ways to cool the classrooms. The truth of the matter is that the situation has not changed. They still have not told us how they intend to find \$2 billion.

First of all, during her budget reply speech the Leader of the Opposition said, 'We are going to air-condition every single classroom.' Then they realised, 'Oops, we made a mistake. We can't do every single classroom. Sorry, we've made an error. It is now every state classroom.' They backflipped before they even had it on the table.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, please resume your seat if you are going to interject.

**Ms GRACE:** They think that the people of Queensland are going to trust them to air-condition every single classroom. It is a joke.

The price that they quote keeps changing. It was \$2 billion in December 2014. That was the figure quoted by the minister for education at the time who I think may have got some pretty sound advice—but, of course, the member for Kawana knows it all and says, 'No. It is now \$1.5 billion. It is not \$2 billion.' That is in spite of the fact that under Labor we have added 2,000 classrooms since 2015 to the classroom stock in Queensland state schools. Now it is not \$2 billion, as it was according to the then minister for education; it is only \$1.5 billion. It is a joke.

They have no plan on air-conditioning classrooms. It is all care and no responsibility. There are no details on how they intend to pay for it. Maybe they want to sell another school like the one the member for Surfers Paradise wanted to sell in Fortitude Valley—and Labor is building a brand-new high school—or like the land they wanted to sell at Calliope—and Labor is building a brand-new high school. It is in the member for Callide's electorate, so he should be proud of Labor's policy when it comes to that.

On radio recently the member for Nanango did another backflip. When asked, 'Member, it may not actually be possible to air-condition every classroom,' she responded, 'Oh, sorry, well we would need to look at every option possible.' That was another backflip on the radio—not necessarily committing to air conditioning but looking at other options. The truth of the matter is that Queensland does not believe you. The truth of the matter is that you have no plan.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member's comments will come through the chair.

**Ms GRACE:** The truth of the matter is that the LNP have no plan for funding this. The truth of the matter is that they have no idea. When they were in government they could not do it but all of a sudden they are going to magically find \$2-plus billion, plus the maintenance. We are getting on with the job: \$23 million invested this year; \$5 million on maintenance. Our Cooler Schools Zone is all done. There are air conditioners. We maintain them and we replace them. We put money into all of those. We work with P&Cs to air-condition classrooms. We have a solar panel program that will help with electricity costs. Labor has the answer; the LNP does not.

*(Time expired)*