




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is on target to deliver eight new schools for the 2020 school year, and we are also delivering more jobs in the building and construction industry in all parts of Queensland. There are currently around 1,000 tradespeople, including around 120 apprentices, working across the eight new school sites alone as construction hits top gear, all on time and on budget.

Recently I was delighted to join the Premier, the member for Logan and a number of very excited future students to visit the construction site of the new Yarrabilba State Secondary College. There are currently around 110 tradies working on the site of this project every day, including 12 apprentices. It is unbelievable to see this school rising out of the ground, with the new sports and information services and technology centres, administration building and junior learning centres almost complete.

I recently joined the member for Morayfield to inspect construction of the new special school in Caboolture. There are currently 90 tradies working on this site, including eight apprentices. Internal fit-out of the administration and general learning buildings is underway and will commence shortly on all other buildings. There are 130 tradies, including 20 apprentices, currently hard at work on the site of the newly named Foxwell State Secondary College in the electorate of Coomera. Work is progressing on the new administration building, and the new sports centre is starting to take shape. There are currently 200 contractors, including 27 apprentices, working to complete the Fortitude Valley State Secondary College in my own electorate of McConnel. Construction of the first new high school to be built in Brisbane's inner city in 50 years—and Queensland's first vertical school—is progressing well, with the fit-out of the learning centre almost complete.

There are currently 131 contractors, including 18 apprentices, working to bring the new high school at Calliope to fruition, a project I know the member for Gladstone is very proud of. The administration building and resource centre is nearing completion, while the junior learning and ICT building, science centre and junior applied technology building are all well advanced. At Ripley Valley in the Bundamba electorate, the new primary and secondary schools are rising from the ground. The member for Bundamba is taking a very keen interest in this work. At the primary school, structural works on the multipurpose hall are complete, and progress is being made every day on the prep learning areas. Meantime at the high school, excellent progress is being made, and the internal fit-out of the classrooms will provide a great learning outcome. In total, some 175 contractors, including 27 apprentices, are currently working on these dual construction sites every day.

At Mango Hill in the Murrumba electorate, 120 contractors, including seven apprentices, are currently working on the site of the new high school, where the administration building, classrooms and science centres are well underway. The Palaszczuk government's \$1.5 billion infrastructure budget this year alone is delivering world-class education facilities and, at the same time, driving much needed jobs right throughout Queensland.