




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving all Queensland children a great start. This includes our commitment to delivering high-quality education infrastructure in growing communities across the state. Since 2015 our government has delivered 13 new schools in the fastest growing areas of the state. The 2019-20 state budget includes a record \$1.5 billion for new and upgraded infrastructure in state and non-state schools. This investment will support more than 4,000 jobs for Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government's \$1.3 billion Building Future Schools Fund is delivering new state schools and infrastructure in high-growth areas of the state. We are currently building eight new schools which will open next year at Calliope, Mango Hill, Coomera, Yarrabilba, two at Ripley Valley, Lee Street State Special School in Caboolture and Fortitude Valley State Secondary College, which this government saved from being sold. Our Building Future Schools Fund will also deliver an additional five schools in 2021: a new primary school at Palmview; a new special school at Palmview; a new secondary school at Caloundra South; a new primary school at Pimpama; and a new secondary school at Dutton Park. These are all some of the fastest growing areas of the state.

We know that all school sectors in the state are experiencing the same growing pains with the rapid expansion of our school communities across Queensland. Under the National School Reform Agreement the federal government is responsible for providing the majority of funding for non-state schools. However, when it comes to infrastructure investment in non-state schools it is the Palaszczuk government that is doing the heavy lifting and outstripping the federal government spend at a rate of over three to one.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to work cooperatively with the non-state sector; for example, in this year's budget \$705.3 million is allocated for recurrent funding grants and \$100 million is allocated for capital assistance grants for non-state schools. Since 2015 we have provided the non-state school sector with a total of almost half a billion dollars for capital assistance grants distributed and assessed independently by the Block Grant Authorities. For example, tomorrow the Minister for Health and member for Murrumba will open a new \$2.5 million learning facility at North Pine Christian College at Dakabin, with the state contributing almost \$1 million to the project. In August the member for Logan opened stage 2 of St Clare's Catholic Primary School in Yarrabilba, where the state contributed \$1.7 million of a \$2.3 million project.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to support our Catholic and independent education partners to deliver new infrastructure where and when it is needed most. I look forward to welcoming and attending the Independent Schools Queensland parliamentary reception this evening.