



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Windaroo Valley State High School

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.13 pm): This year is a big year for one of my high schools, Windaroo Valley State High School. This year the high school celebrates its 25th year, having opened in 1994. However, that milestone is not the only reason that the school is expecting big things. Since being elected, the investment that the Palaszczuk Labor government has made is unprecedented.

On Friday, I attended the school's investiture ceremony at which I presented school blazers to year captains and had my first look at some of the amazing work being done in the school grounds. Since attending the same ceremony last year, work has started on five new classrooms that will become operational towards the end of this year through an investment by this government of \$3.78 million. The school has also upgraded its entrance to provide a mobility access pathway.

The school has an amazing record at interschool athletics, having won the district athletics championship in 14 out of the past 15 years. It was a beneficiary of the Commonwealth Games legacy project, receiving a new long-jump track. After a series of rolling blackouts this time last year during one of our heatwaves, which rendered all air conditioning units redundant, now the school has a reliable source of electricity following our investment of \$225,000 to upgrade their grid. That is something anyone considering air conditioning every school should factor into their costings.

The school has worked to build ties with local sporting and community groups, resulting in a number of grants that have gone directly into improving school facilities. In particular, they have paired with the Yatala Rams Rugby Union Club. As a result, the high school oval has now received irrigation and will receive lighting over the next 12 months.

It is not just in the area of facilities that this school is excelling. As reluctant as I am to endorse NAPLAN results, those results show that Windaroo Valley State High School is the highest performing state high school in Logan. Further, for the past four years the school has received a 100 per cent success rate in seniors completing their QCE.

However, academics is not their only focus. Members will remember the wonderful cocktail party that we had after the opening of parliament last year. Students from Windaroo Valley State High School's trade training centre were among the service staff providing our food and beverages on the day. It is also innovative educational practices that make Windaroo Valley State High School a stand-out. Senior students have the ability to spread their senior studies over three years, rather than the traditional two. The school supports their students with the provision of two guidance councillors.

I was pleased to address the senior class and share some words of wisdom. I acknowledge that the words are not mine, but are those of someone much wiser, timeless and more influential than me, that is, Dr Seuss. He said—

You have brains in your head and feet in your shoes,

You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.

Congratulations to Principal McKeown, staff and students.