




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Beenleigh State High School

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.15 pm): I rise to update the House on the ongoing commitment to the community of Beenleigh by the Palaszczuk Labor government. As some honourable members would be aware, Beenleigh State High School hosts the annual Paddock to Plate event, the highlight of the Beenleigh calendar, showcasing the talent of our state school students. Members may have heard me speak about it previously.

When I last spoke about the Paddock to Plate it was to inform the House that the event had been short-listed as a state finalist in the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Education. Alas, Beenleigh State High School did not win on the night, but we did represent strongly with a number of tables and we were still able to cheer on Beenleigh Special School, which took out the win in the early and primary years category. At least Beenleigh did have a win on the night.

This year at the Paddock to Plate event the Premier and Minister for Education were special guests. The event also provided the opportunity to open Beenleigh State High School's 2020 Get Ready program's new building, the \$7.6 million Bookinburra building featuring 10 classrooms and other learning spaces as well as the best appointed chook shed in the department. Beenleigh State High School's growing student population and award-winning show birds are well catered for. It is what happened next that has the student population of Beenleigh State High School still talking.

After opening the building, the Premier toured the trade training centre where students were busily preparing the three-course meal under the expert tutelage of chef Matt Golinski before heading into the Beenleigh State High School hall. The Beenleigh State High School hall was built in 1988 as an open-air hall and it was enclosed a few years later. It is over 30 years old and has a concrete floor. While it has a fixed stage, it has no side or backstage area or audiovisual or lighting equipment. It is primarily a sports hall, replete with balls still stuck in the rafters, and does not afford the school an appropriate place to showcase its creative performance talent, particularly its cultural performance groups. To top it off, it is not even large enough to fit the current or growing school population.

Within five minutes of stepping foot into the hall, the Premier had decided that Beenleigh deserved better facilities. At the lunch, the Premier announced to the hundreds of locals gathered that the government would investigate the potential for a new facility that was more appropriate for the events and functions that the school conducted. Beenleigh was abuzz.

The next week I followed up on the Premier's commitment, writing to her to seek confirmation and details about what the process would be for Beenleigh State High School. I can report to the House that Education Queensland has allocated \$50,000 to conduct an options analysis for the provision of an appropriate school hall for Beenleigh State High School. The principal, Matt O'Hanlon, also reports that he has had a number of meetings with Education Queensland staff to discuss the infrastructure and curriculum needs of Beenleigh State High School now and into the future. The options analysis is due to be finalised in February. I look forward to updating the House in the new year on what is in store for Beenleigh State High School. I am backing Beenleigh.