




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Cairns Electorate, Schools

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.09 pm): I would like to inform the House of the work being done in a number of schools in my electorate and what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to support our teachers in ensuring the appropriate infrastructure to provide our kids with a world-class education. When I was elected in 2017, I stated that education would be one of my major priorities. That commitment stands today. I understand the transformative power of education and the role it plays in building our communities. I am proud to back our schools. I am proud to back them both on the big and the small issues, such as getting new fans for the Parramatta State School hall, getting new nature based play space with landscaping and student lunch seating areas for Whitfield State School, getting six new general learning areas at Cairns West State School and a refurbished prep block at Balaclava State School.

I very much look forward to seeing the work begin on the new \$11 million multipurpose hall for Cairns State High School in the coming months. The school has been lobbying for a new hall for over a decade and I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government is delivering it through the Renewing Our Schools program. At this stage I must say that the executive principal, Mr Chris Zilm, has been impressively consistent in his demands. I say: well done. The hall will be an absolute game changer for the school. Students will have instruction in health and physical education uninterrupted in the wet season. The hall will also enable the school students to gather as one, which they have not been able to do in the past. Labor knows that improving school facilities like the school hall presents so many positive opportunities to learn new skills and celebrate school spirit.

It is not just state schools that are benefiting from the Palaszczuk government's commitment. When I was elected as the member for Cairns, my very first visit was to Freshwater Christian College, where I inspected the new industrial arts complex, which was partly funded under the Labor government's external infrastructure subsidy scheme. This facility included new woodwork and metalwork areas, a dust extraction area and a paint booth where students at the college can participate in school based traineeships. These projects are important in creating vital jobs for local tradies and more opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships for the kids.

Over the next financial year, my government is committed to phase 1 of the Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program, which will impact on a number of schools in my electorate. The Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program will make a significant contribution to the state government's target of 50 per cent renewable energy use by 2030. I can tell members that, when I remind the kids of that target every time I go to these schools, they absolutely love it.

Finally, I want to thank all the hardworking teachers, teacher aides and principals for their amazing work year on year to give our kids the best start. It has to be said that there are challenges within every community. We know what education can do. These teachers and these executive principals and principals—and Mr Deputy Speaker, you would be very aware of this—do a fantastic job.