



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Jordan Electorate, School Infrastructure**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.28 pm): Schools are well and truly back, much to the relief of many parents I am sure. We are so fortunate to have fantastic schools and students in the Jordan electorate. It is very important to me that we continue to invest in new classrooms, equipment and of course quality teaching staff.

I was very pleased that all state schools in Jordan have been funded for air conditioning. This has been warmly—or coolly, you could say—welcomed by all of my school communities. This additional funding will ensure that classrooms, specialist spaces and staff rooms will be air conditioned. All schools in the Jordan electorate are at the delivery stage or have signed contracts, with two schools now fully air conditioned.

On the first day of the school year I stopped by Augusta State School in Augustine Heights to get a quick tour of the brand-new \$6.3 million learning hub for its prep and year 1 students which has opened this year. This new building includes two specially designed prep learning spaces, six additional general learning spaces and a massive undercroft for potential future growth, along with a fantastic new playground and outdoor learning area. Augusta State School is a very popular school in my electorate and it has been wonderful to deliver these new classrooms and facilities, and the students were clearly loving their new spaces.

Late last year the Minister for Education officially opened the new \$9.9 million Springfield Central State High School sport and community hall—a fantastic space for students and the broader Ipswich community. Until this hall was built, the school could never hold a whole-of-school assembly because it simply did not have the space, so I was particularly excited to see the first school assembly of 2020 which included every student from year 7 to year 12 in attendance. There is more good news for Springfield Central State High, with another \$10 million committed for the school for additional classrooms, with construction to begin this year.

Woodcrest State College, another fantastic school in my electorate, has also received funding to deliver two great new projects this year—a new outdoor learning area and a community hub—and I cannot wait to see these progressed. Camira State School had a \$150,000 upgrade at the start of this year to ensure that any students with disabilities attending this great school are able to get around more easily—something that I believe is so important, particularly in our older schools where these things were previously not considered.

When it comes to the education of our kids in the Jordan electorate, I do not believe in tough love, which we really know is just LNP shorthand for cutting school funding, sacking schoolteachers and selling school sites. I believe in expanding educational opportunities for all of our students and I am already thinking beyond 2020, actively advocating for the planning of a new state secondary school in Greater Springfield, a new primary school for Greenbank and new facilities and education programs in our Flagstone schools to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our growing student population.