




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.11 am): As the Premier stated earlier, last Tuesday was an historic occasion for the Queensland education system. Eight new schools located in rapidly growing parts of the state were opened for the very first time. From the Foxwell State Secondary College on the Gold Coast to the brand-new Calliope State High School outside of Gladstone, more than 1,500 excited students attended their first day of school for 2020 at state-of-the-art, brand-new facilities.

I was fortunate to join the Premier at Fortitude Valley State Secondary College in my electorate where the inaugural students cut the ribbon to welcome the entire school community for the first time. The smiles on the faces of the new students as they entered this modern, technologically advanced facility were only matched by the beaming smiles of parents, staff and the leadership team headed by principal Sharon Barker. I know that the joy seen at the Valley school was mirrored seven times over at each of the new schools. I want to thank those members who were fortunate enough to attend and welcome students to these brand-new schools' first day. I congratulate all eight foundation principals, who have done a fantastic job in preparing the schools from the very beginning and taking the local community on the journey with them, ensuring their school has deep and longstanding ties with their local areas.

Not only does the Palaszczuk Labor government's incredible \$1.5 billion investment in education and infrastructure ensure our children get a great start in life; it also supports hundreds of jobs in the construction industry, including 1,450 jobs at our eight new schools alone. To ensure that this pipeline of construction jobs continues throughout 2020, we are building five more new schools in parts of Queensland to meet rapid growth demands. At the Inner City South Secondary College at Dutton Park work is progressing well, and the new vertical school is on track to open its doors in 2021. Today we announced the successful contractor, FKG Construction, for the new schools at Baringa near Caloundra South, Palmview on the Sunshine Coast and Pimpama on the Gold Coast.

I look forward to seeing these new schools rise from the dirt, just as those eight new schools did last year. I congratulate my department on a mighty job well done completing all schools on time and on budget. As a government we are so proud to have opened the most schools in one day in 30 years, including the first new school in the inner city in more than 50 years, ensuring Queensland children get a great start no matter where they live.