




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.58 am): Yesterday I spoke about the Palaszczuk government's great achievement of opening eight new world-class schools—the most opened in one day in more than 30 years—but there is more good news, with another five schools on track to open next year. We know that our state schools are growing, with a record 578,000 enrolments this year, and we understand that our classrooms and facilities need to grow with them. We saw this rapid growth coming, and that is why we have invested nearly \$430 million, including \$250 million in 2018-19, with 71 projects to build additional classrooms in 61 state secondary schools across Queensland as part of the 2020 Ready program, supporting nearly 850 jobs.

In 2007 the Queensland government embarked on major educational reform with the introduction of prep, and we delivered the additional specialist classrooms. The next phase of reforms and infrastructure investment came in 2015—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE:—when year 7 students transitioned into high school. The original prep students who started school as a smaller half cohort of students back in 2007 graduated from high school at the end of 2019—and congratulations to them. This means that for the first time there are six full year levels of students in Queensland secondary schools in years 7 to 12 from 2020. This \$430 million investment ensured that state high schools across Queensland were 2020 ready to accommodate the anticipated extra 17,500 secondary students now and into the future.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to be delivering world-class education infrastructure needed to keep pace with enrolment growth across Queensland and to be delivering on this final stage of education reforms that started over a decade ago with the implementation of the very successful prep year. Projects include a new multistorey classroom centre at Trinity Bay State High School near Cairns, a new classroom block at Toolooa State High School near Gladstone and a new multistorey learning centre at Kawana Waters State College. All projects were delivered in line with completion dates, on time and on budget—once again, a mighty effort by my department. The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering jobs and state-of-the-art facilities for Queensland students, ensuring our students get a great start.