



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **School Infrastructure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government has an ironclad commitment to education in this state. We know that new schools, improved facilities and more teachers mean better learning outcomes for Queensland students. I congratulate all the 2019 graduates on their excellent results.

The Palaszczuk government has built new schools, expanded and upgraded existing schools and hired an additional 5,800 teachers to meet the demands of student growth and to deliver a world-class education. The 2019-20 budget included a record \$1.5 billion infrastructure spend to improve our schools from Cape York to Coolangatta, representing a massive 56 per cent increase on last year's budget, and I am pleased to report that my department's spend is on track to fully deliver our infrastructure program.

The benefit of investing a record amount in school infrastructure is that it supports thousands of jobs right across the state. Eight new schools were delivered for the start of the 2020 school year—the most on one day in more than 30 years—which supported more than 1,400 jobs this financial year alone in high-growth areas of the state. Next year we will open another five schools, supporting 400 extra jobs, including a new primary school at Pimpama, where last week I turned the sod signalling the beginning of construction.

Our \$430 million 2020 Ready program of more than 70 projects across 61 schools has supported 420 jobs in the past year alone, all delivered on time for school day 1, 2020. Just last week I was at Pacific Pines State High School with the member for Gaven opening their fantastic 2020 Ready new building that has 12 new air-conditioned classrooms and three design studios. The two-storey learning centre is state of the art and, to quote the proud students I met, it really feels like walking onto a university campus.

On the way back from the coast, I could not resist popping into the Foxwell State Secondary College for a quick visit. I was blown away by the design and quality of that school in Coomera. It is a fantastic facility.

Recently I was also pleased to join the Premier and members for Greenslopes and Mansfield at the opening of the Cavendish Road State High School 2020 Ready project, an \$11 million build that includes a new performing arts complex. All of the students, as well as the Premier and the members who were there, were so proud. It was wonderful.

The \$235 million Renewing Our Schools program, which is being delivered as we speak, is expected to support around 200 jobs this year alone. It will deliver new and improved assets at 26 schools across the state. In total, this huge education infrastructure program is expected to support nearly 4,200 jobs in the building and construction industry across our state. I commend their efforts in delivering those projects on time and on budget. There is no doubt that Queensland students are getting a great start under the Palaszczuk Labor government.