




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNELL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.02 am): In recent times I have been pleased to proudly detail in this House the extraordinary effort of this government and my department to build eight new schools for day of the 2020 school year—the most new schools built in more than 30 years. While that accomplishment should definitely be highlighted, the Palaszczuk government is also undertaking a significant investment to renew and build new infrastructure in our existing schools right across Queensland with unprecedented investment.

For example, the \$235 million Renewing our Schools program is being rolled out at 26 schools across the state, with new classroom blocks, new halls, new sports centres, new performing arts centres and improved connectivity walkways being just some of the wonderful projects funded by this initiative. Importantly, this investment by the Palaszczuk government will help support more than 680 jobs across Queensland. For many of these schools, it will be the most significant infrastructure investment in decades. The program is delivering both new and refurbished modern learning facilities for entire school communities.

For example, at Proserpine State High School a new multipurpose performing arts centre and a refurbished administration area are being built, with construction set to commence in the coming days—part of our more than \$64 million investment in schools in the Whitsundays. At Heatley Secondary College, where I joined the member for Thuringowa on a tour of the planned upgrades with the principal and the P&C president, this government is providing multiple refurbished learning spaces and amenities, including to its performing arts centre which will be revolutionised, as well as new covered walkways, delivering state-of-the-art buildings for the students, teachers and staff of this great school.

At Murgon State High School in the seat of Nanango, we are delivering a \$6 million hall and, at Aspley State High School in the seat of Aspley, a new \$11 million multipurpose sports hall and a new music and visual arts centre is on track to be delivered next year. At Bundaberg State High School, where a refurbished learning facility was delivered for day one of the 2020 school year, the refurbishment of the sports centre is underway—all made possible due to our \$1.5 billion record infrastructure investment in schools throughout Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our schools have the best facilities so that every child, no matter where they live, gets the best start in life. By investing in these renewal infrastructure projects, we are supporting hundreds of jobs across Queensland and building the schools of the future.