




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) (9.56 am): As the Premier mentioned earlier, Queensland state schools are about to undergo a refurbishment and upgrade bonanza. Local tradies will soon be building, painting and repairing facilities at schools across the state in addition to the many works currently taking place. This \$220 million investment will support 720 jobs as schools engage with local businesses to get this vital work done as soon as possible. Tradies will be upgrading classrooms, building new outdoor learning spaces, painting and upgrading amenities blocks and improving playgrounds across Queensland.

In Townsville we will be investing \$600,000 to modernise the science lab at the William Ross State High School. In Far North Queensland we will upgrade the science lab at the Kuranda District State College, worth a total of \$240,000. Frenchville State School in Central Queensland will be glad to see almost \$1 million allocated for a new roof over the sports complex. There is \$950,000 for security upgrades at Caloundra State High School on the Sunshine Coast, and we are investing \$400,000 for upgrades at Nerang State High School on the Gold Coast. These are just a small selection of the hundreds of projects that we will begin in the coming months with more to come.

It is no secret that the global economy is doing it tough right now, but Queensland's economic recovery starts with government investment in projects in key industries like education and construction, because we know that by investing in infrastructure we can create jobs and support our local economy first. When it comes to building the schools of the future the record of the Palaszczuk government is unmatched, with eight new schools built under budget—under budget—and open on time for day 1 of the 2020 school year, worth nearly half a billion dollars.

Our \$235 million Renewing Our Schools program of works is supporting more than 700 jobs in Cairns, Townsville, Proserpine, Serena, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Brisbane, to name a few. The \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools program will air-condition every classroom, staffroom and library in every Queensland state school by June 2022, and we are putting 180,000 solar panels on school rooftops to offset those costs.

Let us not forget the five new schools that will open their doors in 2021, with four more to follow in 2022 and 2023. More schools, more teachers and better facilities all mean a world-class education for our students, delivered by the Palaszczuk government, giving every child a great start.