



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**

**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### School Infrastructure



**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the birthday girl.

**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.53 am): I am at that age, Mr Speaker, where I would like to forget about them, to be honest.

**Ms Jones:** You don't look it, Gracie.

**A government member:** Yeah, you look good.

**Ms Fentiman:** Take that interjection.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection from the member for Cooper and minister.

Another day, another fantastic education infrastructure announcement from the Premier! Following on from yesterday's tradie bonanza, where we are announced \$220 million for building works, upgrades and maintenance at Queensland schools, today we can get on with the job of delivering additional classrooms and facilities at another seven schools. This \$200 million investment will not only be great news for these growing school communities but also support another 660 jobs right here in Queensland and add to the record \$1.5 billion school infrastructure investment over the past financial year.

Everyone knows that COVID-19 has had a big impact on the global economy and Queensland is not immune, so by continuing the pipeline of work on school infrastructure we are helping to support construction jobs now and into the future. For the schools at Ripley Valley, Yarrabilba, Mango Hill, Caboolture and Coomera this represents the next stage of development following their opening at the start of the 2020 school year. The Palaszczuk government opened eight new state schools for the 2020 school year, the most in one year in more than 30 years, and we will continue to create hundreds of jobs through the next stage of these important infrastructure projects.

Tenders will be called shortly and contractors for these projects are expected to be announced later this year, with construction to start in 2020 and finish during 2022. It was fantastic to visit Lee Street State Special School with the Premier and local member, Minister Mark Ryan, to see the great work being done at that new school. The pride in those students was really unmeasurable. As I mentioned yesterday—well, I tried to mention yesterday—last week I was at Yarrabilba State Secondary College with the member for Logan, and I look forward to visiting the other new 2020 schools, including Mango Hill with the Deputy Premier and Ripley Valley with the member for Bundamba, in the coming weeks.

I also want to make special mention of the work being done at West End State School. There has been incredible growth in that area. This was a school that was bursting at the seams as more and more people moved into the inner-city suburbs of West End and South Brisbane. On Monday the official key handover of the newly completed stage 1 project occurred with the member for South Brisbane.

The new buildings look absolutely fantastic. It is great to see stage 2 of the project now forging ahead for parents, students and staff in that school community. All of these projects build on the Palaszczuk government's record investment in building new schools and expanding existing schools in high-growth areas, supporting hundreds of local jobs and giving our kids a great start.