




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is only week 2 back at school but my school communities in Mount Ommaney have been hard at work rolling out the air-conditioning program that the Palaszczuk government committed to late last year when the Premier, the Minister for Education and I visited the fantastic Centenary State High School.

At the outset, I acknowledge the absolutely amazing work of my local P&Cs in funding air-conditioning units over many years in our state schools. They have collectively raised hundreds of thousands of dollars with sausage sizzles, school fetes, free dress days and discos. They are absolutely amazing and they deserve our unwavering thanks. Together my school community and I have been vocal advocates for air conditioning schools. They have provided me with the facts, figures and data around the unbearable heat our Mount Ommaney schools can frequently endure. These hardworking parents have spurred me on to lobby for valuable funds and I am really excited that we will be delivering aircon for Queensland schools as quickly as we can.

I will never forget the little Corinda preppie who approached me at a community barbecue last April and told me that he needed air conditioning to cool down and learn after hot lunch breaks in summer. This week we are two weeks in and, although it is raining today, many days it is touching 40 degrees and that is going to continue throughout term 1. I am very excited to update the House that over the school holidays air conditioning has been delivered in the following schools in Mount Ommaney: Corinda State School where the P&C secretary Nat told me the preppies were thrilled with their newly air-conditioned classrooms; Darra State School under the leadership of Principal Gayle and Lisa McAully; Oxley State School, this year celebrating 150 years of being great; Middle Park State School where I am the proud mum of a grade 3-er and grade 5-er; Corinda State High has just had its contract awarded for the delivery; and let us not forget Centenary State High School, where the contract will be awarded shortly; along with Jindalee. I am also excited to announce that Jamboree Heights will now be receiving two air-conditioned spaces after their audit was updated. I thank their principal, Cam Wallace, for raising this with me.

In the time I have left, I want to wish our retiring councillor for Jamboree, Matthew Bourke, all the best for the future. His retirement has come as a shock to many of us. I know I speak on behalf of my community when I say we appreciate his years of dedicated service to our community. Thanks, Matt, I hope you enjoy putting your feet up. This means our community is without a sitting councillor in next month's election. We need someone who is ready to step up and start tomorrow. Enter Rachel Hoppe, 4074 local and community champion. Rach is already well known in our community as a board member of the local ambulance committee and a former foster carer for the RSPCA. Rach and I have doorknocked thousands of homes in the community together. I met her when she was a senior retail manager at the local Jeans West store. I recruited her to my team and then to my office because her local knowledge is second to none. She is one of the most dedicated and tenacious people I have ever met. She never stops fighting. I hope she is the next councillor for Jamboree.