




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Lee Street State Special School

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.27 pm): It is always good to follow good news with more good news. I am very pleased to report to the House that it was an outstanding day last week when I was able to attend the first day for our new special school in Caboolture, the Lee Street State Special School. It was outstanding to see the kids coming into the school with the parents, caregivers, teachers and staff. Everyone had a tear in their eye because it is just the most beautiful school you could come across. It will certainly provide great opportunities for these young people of Caboolture and give them a real flying start to their lives.

There was a common unity across that school as well as seven other schools in Queensland because eight brand-new schools opened last week, which was the biggest number in many, many decades. I was remarking with the principal of Lee Street State Special School that there are very few occasions where the entire school is able to share their first day at school. We reflected that the teachers, staff and students were all able to claim last week's first day at school as their first day at school. There is a common purpose and unity there.

The almost 160 students at Lee Street State Special School will be supported by 43 staff, including 38 teachers. As I said, it is a beautiful school with state-of-the-art facilities worth some \$25 million. I pay tribute to the construction company, Badge Constructions, for the effort they put in to not only deliver this outstanding school but actually put some heart into their work. They knew that what they were constructing was something special.

They knew the place they were constructing would provide significant opportunities for some kids in our community who do need a little bit of extra help. I must pay tribute to Badge for not only delivering a great product but also doing all those extra things that have made the Lee Street State Special School the wonderful place that it is. It is important to note that that construction project also supported 73 construction jobs.

The demand for enrolments at Lee Street State Special School is so significant that we have actually brought forward stage 2. Construction is now underway on the next building, a new two-storey learning centre and multipurpose activity centre. Badge Constructions are also doing that. Because they are committed to ensuring that that project is also delivered on time and on budget, they will be able to have that building ready for the beginning of term 2—a significant achievement.

I wish everyone at Lee Street State Special School all the best for the school year ahead. It is an outstanding school and I look forward to visiting very often.