




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Macalister Electorate, Schools

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.21 pm): It is that time of the week again when I give a shout-out about the achievements of my Macalister schools. It is timely that I do this now as each September I invite my state school leaders to Parliament House for my annual Dinner on the Deck event. Principals, school executives and school captains and their parents are welcomed into the people's House. This has been very important in 2020 when our school captains have had limited opportunities to represent their school in public and at formal events.

Last month Beenleigh State High School held its annual, if somewhat scaled down, Paddock 2 Plate lunch. It has been a year since the Premier attended and declared that work would commence on developing a plan for a new hall for the school, one worthy of the community events that the school hosts. One year on, I have had the privilege of unveiling the building options that are being considered to meet the Premier's intent and to seek community feedback. For the record, the options include the expansion of the current hall footprint or the building of a new hall in a new location.

On the subject of Beenleigh State High School's principal, I would like to wish principal Matt O'Hanlon all the best as a state finalist in the Education Queensland Showcase Award for Excellence in School Leadership. As with last year, Beenleigh State High is a state finalist in two categories; it is also up for the Showcase Award for Excellence in the Secondary Years for the Beenleigh READiness—Rise through reading program.

Turning to other schools in Macalister, this term sees the completion of two new buildings. The \$4 million Eagleby South State School building has four classrooms, outdoor learning spaces and play spaces. This building takes pride of place in the community and is visible to all passing motorists and residents. The Indigenous mural by Queensland artist Chad Briggs is complemented by feature lighting and signage which shows the building to its best advantage.

The new \$6.4 million building at Beenleigh Special School is also operational now. It has 12 new classrooms and resulted in a new car park and bus pick-up area which services my fastest growing school. Again, the building itself is a grand statement to students and residents alike that we value our state school learning spaces. While we enjoy seeing our kids learn and grow in appropriate building and playgrounds, making sure kids get to and from school safely is important.

I am pleased to have championed for an intersection upgrade at Beenleigh Redland Bay Road outside Carbrook State School. Last year I secured \$4.35 million to signalise the T-intersection and deal with safety issues of school traffic entering and exiting Kruger Road. As Transport and Main Roads and Education Queensland worked through the planning considerations for the intersection upgrade, the car park and pick-up/drop-off layout was seen as central to resolving the traffic flow issues. I am pleased to report to the House that two departments and a local council have gotten together and come up with a commonsense solution. We have allocated an additional \$519,000 to address the car park capacity and flow. This is more evidence of our commitment to all of our state schools.