




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Bonney Electorate, Schools

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.03 pm): There are not many things we can fight for in this parliament more important than having the best facilities for our local schools. I have some great state schools in my area with dedicated principals leading them and teachers who work hard and sacrifice much of their time to give our local young people the best start in life.

For some of them that can often be a struggle in rundown buildings. Arundel State School is a proud independent public school that achieves fantastic results. Sadly, almost half of their classrooms are in demountable buildings—22 of 47, including three specialist classes and a rundown toilet block. These were brought in on the back of trucks decades ago, meaning there are very few permanent buildings at a school that has consistently over 1,100 students enrolled. Some of these demountable classrooms are not even level. Things will roll down the desks if people do not hold onto them. Our Arundel kids deserve better learning spaces.

Labrador State School, closer to the sea breeze, celebrates 100 years next year. Whilst the buildings at this site might not be that old, it needs upgrades. The hall is not fit for purpose and it needs some serious work. At Labrador and Coombabah high there is also limited air conditioning. Their P&C associations cannot and should not continue to carry that burden. Teachers admit that they often do not get anything done in the afternoon sessions because students cannot concentrate. That lost time adds up. Our kids should not have to sit through that heat. It is an insult to hear Labor say it is not an issue because apparently we have sea breezes in that area.

Finally, I will touch on the serious traffic and footpath issues around Musgrave Hill State School, Southport Special School, Southport Flexible Learning Centre and the Musgrave Hill Community Children's Centre. All these facilities are within a few hundred metres of each other and they are all around the busy local road Kumbari Avenue and next to the Smith Street Motorway. I met with local engineer Gerard, a parent of Musgrave Hill State School and whose wife, Alison, sits on the P&C. He was so sick of the chaos and safety risks that he took it upon himself to undertake a general review of the area with his expertise. I table his detailed notes to place these serious issues on the public record.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Notes on the state of road and footpath network surrounding Musgrave Hill State School' [216].

I wrote to Mayor Tate about these issues and was told that detailed traffic surveys will be undertaken in response early in this term. I am happy to say that repairs to some of the more serious trip hazards and edge drops on footpaths will be undertaken. They will also be replacing damaged kerb and channel and refreshing the line markings around these major schools.

More needs to be done and I urge council and the Department of Education and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to get on to it swiftly, especially around Southport Special School, which is one of the largest in the state and has some serious issues at the entry. It is particularly an issue for the state departments because they are the ones who put these major learning facilities within a few hundred metres of each other on busy roads. It should be up to them to make those upgrades that are needed.