



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 March 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Palmview, Schools**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.36 pm): For many years on the Sunshine Coast, local state schools have been over capacity. It has resulted in traffic congestion during the school pickup run each day and it impacts the learning experience of our students. That is why I have long advocated for new schools to be built to support the population growth on the Sunshine Coast. I am pleased that the government has listened to that advocacy and delivered a new Palmview State Primary School and the Palmview State Special School, both of which opened at the start of this year. However, more needs to be done.

Nestled in the heart of the Sunshine Coast, Palmview is a rapidly-growing master planned community and, since 2017, 2½ thousand Queenslanders have moved into a suburb where no-one lived when I was elected at the end of 2018. Like many areas across Queensland, that rapid population growth is placing considerable strain on community infrastructure like schools and roads across the Sunshine Coast.

In an electorate home to some of the largest and best schools in Queensland, the need for a new high school has been evident for many years, but now the situation is becoming critical. That is why I was pleased to see the government complete earthworks for a new Palmview state high school last year but, unfortunately, with the high school only scheduled to open in 2023, earthworks is as much as the state government intends to deliver anytime soon. That will mean that the first year 6 graduates from Palmview State Primary School will need to travel away to other local schools such as Chancellor State College, which is already bursting at the seams.

With the massive influx of families into Palmview, it simply does not make sense. Given the state government's stated desire to commence shovel-ready projects to kickstart the Queensland economy, I find it puzzling why work on the Palmview state high school would not be brought forward so it can open at the start of 2022.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** In June last year when I questioned the Minister for Education—who likes to chirp away—on the need for a new high school, I was told that there was insufficient in-catchment demand. However, even if I were to accept that argument—which I do not—in the months since June last year we have seen a massive influx of new residents moving into the catchment. They are all eager to take advantage of the federal government's HomeBuilder grants. There are already 2,000 homes in Palmview, and by the end of the year another 500 or 600 lots will be approved.

Local principals tell me that they believe there is sufficient demand from existing students who attend state high schools like Chancellor and Mountain Creek, and this ignores those students already enrolled at Palmview State Primary School or those who are yet to move to the area. As the Sunshine Coast population grows, we need to see infrastructure like schools and roads built in advance of growth, not after a problem arises.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I ask the Minister for Education, who likes to chirp away, to consider the massive influx of residents moving into the area, review the demand modelling in relation to the new Palmview state high school and deliver a Palmview state high school to open in January 2022.