



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Springfield Central State High School; LAVO

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.16 pm): Last week we saw some significant announcements by the Palaszczuk government that support education and jobs in the Jordan electorate and our broader region. During the 2020 state election, our government committed to delivering a new high school for Greater Springfield. We have experienced significant enrolment growth in recent years and we are forecast to grow even more. In fact, over the next two decades, more than 3,300 school-age kids are expected to move into the area. Our wonderful Springfield Central State High School campus is bursting at the seams with almost 2,000 students, and despite some recent welcome additional buildings, including a new hall, there is currently no space left to expand. After a fairly exhaustive search for suitable land, the Queensland Department of Education has now purchased a site in Springfield's knowledge precinct. Given the site is adjacent to the Springfield TAFE and the University of Southern Queensland Springfield campus, there was a real opportunity to do something unique and different with the site.

Last week I was very pleased indeed to welcome the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to Springfield where we were able to announce that we would be expanding the very popular Springfield Central State High School and building a senior campus for years 10-12. This new 'vertical' school will be built to open in term 1, 2024. Stage 1 will include general and specialist learning areas, a performing arts centre, a multipurpose sports hall and ample green space. This school will be part of an education and vocational hub and we are so excited by the opportunities that will allow collaboration and growing partnerships between the school, our VET sector and the university to help our students secure well-paid and meaningful employment and careers.

We know that new technologies will play an important role in creating jobs in our communities so I was absolutely thrilled with the announcement that Australian energy technology company LAVO will establish the very first hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility in Greater Springfield. The \$15 million facility is being supported by the Palaszczuk government's Invested in Queensland program, part of our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. Last week the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, as well as the Minister for Energy, Hydrogen and Renewables, joined me for this very exciting announcement.

Construction of the new facility will begin in early 2022 and should be completed by the end of the year. Importantly, this project will create up to 200 construction jobs over the next 12 months and once fuel cell production ramps up there will be almost 170 operational jobs in our region. The fuel cells will be used in the world's first hydrogen energy storage system for homes and businesses developed in Australia by LAVO and the University of New South Wales. Partnering with companies like LAVO is part of our government's COVID-19 recovery plan to propel our next phase of economic growth. It is great for Queensland and really great for the Jordan electorate.