




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.57 pm): I rise to update my community and the House about the rollout of infrastructure in our local community thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. Before the last election we set out a comprehensive plan for the local infrastructure that we would start and roll out in the next four years. In the biggest piece of news, I am so glad to say that we now have a site for the forthcoming Moreton Bay Central Fire and Rescue Station. This is a huge win for our community. It will have a great impact.

The station will be on a 5,000-square-metre lot in Steel Street off Boundary Road in the Narangba Innovation Precinct. It will give fast access to Diamond Jubilee Way, Deception Bay Road and the Bruce Highway. This new station will overlap with the service areas of all the adjacent fire stations. It means a faster response time to local fires and accidents. Incidentally, these days accidents are the main callouts for our fire and rescue officers. This site was chosen after a careful assessment by our QFES officers, and I thank them for that. The next step is the construction of the station. I hope we will soon be in a position to outline a time frame.

As I said, this is a massive bit of local news in our community. I thank the Minister for Police and Minister for Emergency Services, the member for Morayfield, and his predecessor, the member for Barron River, who was a great advocate for this project as well.

In another great piece of local news, we are making good progress with the creation of a community hall at Deception Bay State School. This is the oldest school in my area. It is a wonderful small school that provides such a great level of care for its students and is very highly valued by those people whose children attend. We are investing \$5 million in this. Meetings to discuss early design are underway. We have started a process to make sure we have the appropriate zoning to build that hall at that site. I congratulate the principal, Trudy Ivins, and her team for being such powerful advocates for this project. I encourage her to continue being vocal about how we should build this.

Finally, I am so glad to see the Deception Bay Road widening project marching on. I first saw this project 10 years ago as a local councillor. When I became the state member I found that it had been axed under the Campbell Newman government. I am so glad to see this project coming back. It is still in its early days. We now have an engineering firm to help develop the business case for this missing link. It will go over some of the previous planning and investigations and do further site investigations. That way we can give early cost estimates and preliminary designs and move to the next stage.