




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): Right across this state thousands of young Queensland students are receiving a great education in 1,254 great schools. In 2021 that includes five brand new schools in the growing south-east corner. On the first day of school, students were welcomed at Brisbane South State Secondary College at Dutton Park; Baringa State Secondary College, which was officially opened last week with the Premier and the member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt—what a great morning that was; Palmview State Primary School and Palmview State Special School on the Sunshine Coast; and Gainsborough State School on the Gold Coast. Those five new state schools represent an investment of more than \$462 million, supporting up to an estimated 1,387 jobs. There is more to come with three more new state schools to open next year: a new primary school in Caloundra South, a new primary school in Greenbank and a new special school at Coomera.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that our short-term economic recovery hinges on jobs. Our record \$1.9 billion school infrastructure investment will support almost 4,800 jobs throughout Queensland. That means jobs for plumbing apprentices such as Cameron MacDonald. Last week I met Cameron at the sod-turning of the new primary school at Greenbank with the Premier, the member for Logan and the member for Jordan. Young people such as Cameron will be building a future while they build new school halls, performing arts centres and classroom blocks. We are also pumping \$45 million into shovel-ready projects that can get underway straightaway—projects like playground and fencing upgrades. That will support nearly 150 valuable local jobs right across the state.

Our education policies are also focused on the long term by building careers for students with the skills they will need to grow and prosper into the future. Our \$45 million Local Schools Local Jobs plan will upgrade training facilities and trade training centres at 26 schools across the state such as Tara Shire State College in the electorate of Warrego and Chinchilla State High School in Callide. The plan will support training opportunities in mining, gas and electrical industries for young people in those areas so that they can get jobs in local industries and will not have to leave their regions. This is all about strengthening regional economies and communities.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has invested \$5.2 billion in school infrastructure because we know that our state is growing. We will continue that investment to create local jobs, rebuild our schools and economy, and give young students the future they deserve.