



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Schools, Skills Training; School Infrastructure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in Queensland's recovery and future, and that means the workers we need for our high-skill industries of the future. Our \$45 million Local Jobs Local Schools plan will support Queensland's recovery with infrastructure jobs as we upgrade 26 trade training centres around the state. This plan will also train and develop the skilled workers that local businesses and industries need to grow their enterprises.

I met some of the students already benefiting from trade training in schools at Rheinmetall's Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence at Redbank. These Glenala State High School students are being trained for jobs in the defence vehicle manufacturing industry. We are providing \$2.25 million to upgrade their trade skills school centre. This is all part of our massive education investment, which is creating local jobs and opportunities for local businesses.

The Palaszczuk government's recent budget provides a record \$1.9 billion spend on school infrastructure, including: the delivery of 50 new classroom buildings, supporting 1,300 jobs; and \$235 million for 26 new halls and performing arts centres, supporting 775 jobs—all of which are so important as Queensland recovers from COVID. There is \$100 million for 172 refurbishment and renewal projects in schools, including upgrades to school learning and support spaces and security and parking infrastructure. For example, this will provide: \$160,000 to improve equitable access at Bowen State High School in Burdekin; \$750,000 to replace the amenities block at Cairns West State School in Cairns; and \$200,000 for a water reticulation upgrade at Montville State School in Glass House. We are also investing a total of \$350 million over three years for new infrastructure in Catholic and Independent schools. This includes an extra \$45 million as per our election commitment, supporting projects including more than half a million dollars to design and build a bus pick-up and set-down area at Groves Christian College at Kingston and \$1.1 million for works at Holy Spirit College at Fitzgibbon in Sandgate.

All of this means local jobs for young Queenslanders like Sean Burr, an apprentice with FKG Group. I met Sean last month at the new Baringa State Secondary College with the Premier and member for Caloundra, and he was so thrilled to meet some of the students enrolled in the new school he helped to build—but not quite as excited as the new students who were attending the school. This Labor government's investment in schools infrastructure is creating jobs for Queensland workers like Sean right now and preparing our young people with skills for the jobs of the future.