




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): Queenslanders re-elected the Palaszczuk Labor government to keep delivering our plan for economic recovery. That means keeping Queenslanders healthy, delivering infrastructure and supporting jobs. In my portfolio, that means investing in world-class education and racing infrastructure, creating a pipeline of jobs for Queensland's tradies and apprentices.

Work is underway on a more than \$227 million program to expand and build on some of our newest schools in high-growth areas, supporting 700 jobs across the south-east corner and in Central Queensland. Last year this government opened eight new state schools for the start of the 2020 school year—the highest number in more than 30 years. This year, those schools are now moving into the next stage of their development, adding senior learning centres, performing arts centres, art and design classrooms, and many more contemporary learning facilities.

For instance, Foxwell in the electorate of Coomera, Mango Hill in Murrumba and Yarrabilba in Logan are three state secondary colleges getting almost \$108 million in exciting, state-of-the-art additional learning facilities. Ripley Valley State School and Ripley Valley State Secondary College in Bundamba are gaining \$43 million worth of new facilities including a library, a canteen and a multipurpose court. There is also about \$21.7 million worth of new buildings for Lee Street State Special School in Morayfield. Then there is Calliope State High School in Callide—proudly opened and delivered thanks to the advocacy of the member for Gladstone and currently out to tender to gain new science labs and senior hospitality learning spaces.

At Fortitude Valley State Secondary College in my own electorate of McConnel work is underway on a new sports facility and a 13-classroom senior learning precinct, which is great news for the local school community. I was delighted to meet Matt Phipps when on site last week. He is a fourth-year carpentry apprentice who is loving working on a school. Matt's aim is to become a foreman when he finishes his apprenticeship, and I wish him and others all the best. He is just one of many apprentices who the Premier and I have met on numerous occasions benefitting from our record investment in schools infrastructure throughout Queensland.

Our plan for economic recovery is delivering future-focused public investment. That is why Queensland—if we get more destinations under the federal government's plan—is the place to be.