




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Weather Event, School Closures; School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): By way of an update, there are 18 state schools currently closed. The good news is that closures are due to access and not due to school damage.

If there are any pieces of school infrastructure that unite all in this chamber, they are school halls and multipurpose facilities. One of the regular topics raised with me by all members in this House is school halls, be they new or upgraded. Since we came to government we have delivered around 60 new and improved halls—but wait, there's more. During the election we committed around \$260 million for new and upgraded halls in 37 schools, with 18 being built in regional Queensland. That is more than 100 halls for sports and performing arts. In many cases, they are the only indoor spaces in small rural and remote communities.

Most importantly, our latest commitment will support 775 jobs as part of our economic recovery plan, particularly in regional Queensland. That is jobs for young construction workers like Cameron Daghish, whom I met earlier this month working on his first school site. He is a young, first-year apprentice with Redbank Plains Plumbing. He told me that he is really enjoying the variety of skills he is learning.

We will be creating jobs and building halls at St George State High School in Warrego, Ayr State High School in Burdekin, Oakey State High School in Condamine and Gladstone Central State School in Gladstone. On the Gold Coast, three schools will receive new halls: Miami State High School in Mermaid Beach, Nerang State High School in Gaven and Palm Beach Currumbin State High School in Burleigh. On the Sunshine Coast, five new halls will be built: at Chancellor State College in Buderim, Burnside State High School in Nicklin, Buderim Mountain State School in Buderim, Caloundra State School in Caloundra and Noosa District State High School's Pomona campus in Noosa.

Ms Palaszczuk: Great work, Minister.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection from the Premier. These halls are a major contributor to schools and local communities. I know how much the \$5.3 million to enclose the existing covered area will mean to the Kilcoy State High School community, and I look forward to working with the Kilcoy P&C, which wrote to me supporting this project. Scoping and design work will soon be completed for all 37 halls, and the first contracts will be awarded in the second half of this year. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of driving economic recovery, particularly in our regions, with a pipeline of jobs and infrastructure. I look forward to opening these new school facilities with all members in this House.