




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Local Schools Local Jobs

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's \$45 million Local Schools Local Jobs election commitment is about to start delivering for local businesses and students. We are providing students with the skills to get the jobs. This innovative, future focused plan will build and upgrade existing industry linked training facilities at 26 schools across Queensland to provide students with pathways into rewarding careers. These new upgraded training facilities and trade training centres will complement local emerging growth industries like hydrogen, aquaculture, defence maintenance and manufacturing, aviation and aerospace and automotive technologies. This will prepare our students for future jobs as mechanical engineers and maintenance technicians in mining or product designers and automotive engineers in advanced manufacturing.

I am proud to advise that the first contract will be let next month for work at Mabel Park State High School in Waterford. We are investing \$3.6 million at Mabel Park for an automotive training facility, including equipment to support practical skills development and theoretical learning. Mabel Park already has an existing engineering workshop. The \$3.6 million will provide classrooms for theoretical learning to complement the proposed automotive training curriculum. The extra classrooms will also enhance the school's STEM capacity. The school has a vision for clean automotive technologies utilising new electric and battery technologies, such as electronic scooters and solar-powered vehicles. The automotive training classrooms will be built in conjunction with a major classroom build at the school with a combined project value of more than \$25 million on completion.

Our Local Schools Local Jobs project will target the specific skills needed to diversify and strengthen local economies, particularly in our regions, and build on our existing trade training in schools across Queensland. These projects are being overseen by the member for Keppel as Assistant Minister for Education. This is just one of the new and upgraded training facilities to be provided under this commitment—from Woree State High School in Mulgrave in the Far North and west to St George State High School in Warrego. Other projects include the \$4.6 million manual arts building at Blackwater State High School in Gregory; a \$5.4 million design and technology building at MacGregor State High School in Toohey; and a \$4 million new manual arts facility at Lowood State High School in Lockyer. The Palaszczuk government is delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery and at the same time skilling Queenslanders for the future.