




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

School Infrastructure; Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The south-east corner of the state is in the thick of an \$85 million education construction boom with recent contracts awarded to continue our program of works. Contracts worth more than \$85 million awarded in March and April alone will fuel a school based construction jobs boom from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast and west to Ipswich. These projects are underway or due to start across more than 30 state schools, supporting 260 jobs, as a pipeline of school infrastructure projects is being rolled out—all part of our economic recovery plan.

This is just a fraction of the projects underway as part of our \$1.9 billion education infrastructure spend in the current budget, supporting 4,800 jobs throughout Queensland. This includes projects like new classroom blocks at Calamvale Community College in Algester and at Lawnton State School in Kurwongbah. There are lifts and accessible pathways going into Cannon Hill State School in Bulimba, Dayboro and Pine Rivers in Pine Rivers and a new amenities block going in at Dunwich State School in Oodgeroo.

It is not only in the education area of my portfolio that the Palaszczuk government is investing in infrastructure. Our premier racing event—the 2021 TAB Queensland Winter Racing Carnival—will soon be launched. There is record prize money of \$20.5 million, 10 great race days across the five race clubs, and the \$5 million TAB Stradbroke Handicap race day at Eagle Farm on 12 June. I know that is one of the favourite events on the Premier's racing calendar.

Let us not forget country racing—an essential part of community life in our rural and regional communities. The Palaszczuk government has committed a total of \$105.6 million over six years to non-TAB country race clubs, including funds for infrastructure repairs and maintenance projects. Some of these clubs advise me that this is the most money they have ever received in the history of country racing. That is for clubs like Gympie Turf Club, which received more than \$13,000 towards two new steward stands at Adrian McClintock Park. Best of luck to the club for its first TAB meeting on 19 June. I hope the member for Gympie will be there—maybe we can join together!

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I actually don't mind the member for Gympie, so I am more than happy to go with him to the races.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Sorry, member for Gympie!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I dare not call order when there is so much love in the room!

Ms GRACE: It was great to meet recently with the Eastern Downs Country Racing Association president and secretary Graham Rewald and Jim Costello. What absolute stalwarts they are for country racing in Queensland. I look forward to working together for an even better country racing package. The Palaszczuk government's economic strategy for recovery is off and racing in my portfolios, setting Queensland up for an even brighter future.