



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Budget, Education**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): The 2021-22 education budget is delivering for regional Queensland with over \$310 million worth of job-generating projects to maintain, improve and upgrade schools and support local jobs across the state as part of Queensland's economic recovery plan.

In the Far North, that means \$51.2 million for projects including: the new \$11.5 million classroom building at Malanda State High in Hill, and I look forward to opening that building with the member for Hill; \$2.4 million for new classrooms and amenities at Lockhart State School in the electorate of Cook, and I also look forward to opening those amenities with the member for Cook; and a new \$11.5 million hall at Trinity Bay State High.

In North Queensland, there is \$37.3 million going to help deliver new training facilities at Thuringowa State High and at Home Hill State High. We are pumping \$26.8 million in infrastructure spending into the Mackay-Whitsunday region that will deliver new classrooms, such as more than \$8 million at Mackay Northern Beaches State High School and \$3.8 million at Proserpine State High School, and I look forward to opening those with the member for Whitsunday.

In Central Queensland, there is \$74.6 million for projects like new classrooms at Yeppoon State High School in Keppel, and for stage 2 of the Calliope State High School, built by this Labor government on land those opposite were going to sell.

In Wide Bay, \$35 million will deliver new classrooms at Hervey Bay State High, and on the Darling Downs \$66.7 million is going to be pumped into schools from Toowoomba to St George, with St George State High School getting upgrades to the school hall and new \$8.8 million training facilities—I have got so much, I do not even know whether I have enough time—and at Warwick, a new \$5.8 million school hall. Also in the west, there are funds for the Big Red Truck training facilities at Longreach State High School and at Cloncurry State School.

Across the state, we are also ensuring every state school student has access to a wellbeing professional—namely, at our regional Centres for Learning and Wellbeing in Roma, Mount Isa, Atherton and Emerald. We are expanding remote kindy, with 20 more schools coming on board in 2022 in parts of the state with no nearby kindergarten services, such as in Gregory and Southern Downs. Our homework centres will be shortly rolled out in schools across the state, and including more than half of those in regional Queensland.

Our regional education infrastructure spend is an investment in local jobs and, importantly, an investment in Queensland's children and students, no matter where they live in this great state.