




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Newstead House

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (6.09 pm): In McConnel, I have a whole suburb that has only one house and that house is the absolutely beautiful, earliest surviving European residence, the 175-year-old Newstead House. Built as a private cottage in 1846, Newstead House is now a house museum and has been loved by generations of Queenslanders. Newstead House and the Newstead Substation were placed on Queensland's Heritage Register in 1992. Over the years, countless people have used Newstead House for events such as weddings, birthday celebrations and a range of memorial events.

It was a pleasure to be able to show the member for Gaven, whose environment portfolio oversees Queensland's Heritage Register, around our oldest remaining European building a couple of weeks ago. Why were we there? The 175-year-old home is a little bit tired and it needs a bit of a face lift and a bit of a renovation. Newstead House, like other historic houses, faces the challenges of maintenance and general upkeep. In responding to the steady stream of visitors who are interested in exploring Brisbane's unique heritage, we are going to give it the facelift it needs.

We are about to spend \$5.5 million on Newstead House through funding from the recent budget, and I thank the Treasurer for the allocation. The Palaszczuk government is investing in our heritage and this beautiful home. The funding from the Queensland budget ensures Newstead House and the substation will continue to be protected and preserved for generations to come. I know that schools visit Newstead House. They enter inside and they see a place on a most beautiful part of a reach of the Brisbane River, and it is absolutely stunning. It will be preserved and restored as a beautiful home for years to come.

The \$5.5 million works include rectifying issues associated with major structural components. We are going to build retaining walls. We are going to look after and maintain the timber floors. We are going to look after the timber veranda and drainage. We are going to replace the house's roof. We are upgrading security, fire and electrical services. It will also include the restoration of internal and external decorative work, including the finalisation of a new external colour scheme for Newstead House. It is important we protect our heritage and maintain buildings like Newstead House for all to enjoy. After the \$5.5 million, we are going to throw a big party and everyone in this House will be invited. It will be fantastic. It will be iconic. It is a beautiful home that is well worth saving and well worth restoring. We are spending \$5.5 million on Newstead House. Come to the party when we open it.