



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNELL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Schools, Infrastructure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.15 am): I am pleased to report that construction is well underway on the new automotive training facility at Mabel Park State High, the first cab off the rank in our \$445 million Local Schools Local Jobs program. It was wonderful to visit the school with member for Waterford, Minister Fentiman, to recently check our progress on what will be an almost \$25 million cutting-edge STEM precinct and automotive training facility, finishing in March next year. The \$4 million automotive facility will allow students to explore the latest in solar powered vehicles and robotic technologies. In fact, principal Mick Hornby advised us that students will be able to build their own electronic scooters to ride to school, which is just amazing.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Rockhampton State High School with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel where we heard about the Local Schools Local Jobs project. The school's existing aquaculture program will receive a \$2.5 million boost to allow for 10,000 barramundi fingerlings to be released into the Fitzroy River catchment per year. It will give Rockhampton High students the opportunity to learn all about one of Australia's fastest growing food industries, giving students the skills they need to secure well-paid jobs in their region, setting them up for the future.

In light of our government's big hydrogen manufacturing facility announcement on Sunday, I am pleased to say Gladstone State High School, in the member for Gladstone, Minister Butcher's electorate, will receive \$2 million through Local Schools Local Jobs to prepare students for the local hydrogen jobs. It means Gladstone High School students will be at the forefront of this emerging green industry which will make Queensland a renewable energy superpower.

As one infrastructure project kicks off, another is ticked off. Our \$235 million Renewing our Schools program, a 2017 election commitment to renew some of our oldest high schools is now completed—delivered. During construction, this program has supported more than 680 jobs across the state, ensuring a consistent pipeline of work for tradies. What a program and facilities it delivered. I was very proud to be with the member for Cairns at the beautiful multipurpose sports court that we opened at the Cairns State High School, and similar courts in Indooroopilly State High in Maiwar and Smithfield State High in Barron River, where I hope to be very soon to open it with the member for Barron River. The performing arts centre at Everton Park State High School is complete. It was great to be there with the member for Everton, opening that absolutely unbelievable facility in a school that those opposite had earmarked for sale. We also have centres at Toowoomba State High School and I look forward to going to Toowoomba to see those magnificent centres as well. I know the local members are very much welcoming them.

These programs continue to deliver on our proud record on investing in world-class education facilities and, I can honestly say to the House, the likes of which this state has never seen before.