



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNELL**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **School Infrastructure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government has planned to build 14 new schools in the fastest-growing areas of our state, delivering world-class learning environments for Queensland students. We know that over the 10-year period from 2016 to 2026 thousands of additional students will join our excellent Queensland state schools each year. To keep pace with this growth, we need to build new schools, provide additional classrooms and renovate and refresh existing facilities. That is exactly what we are doing.

Our \$1.9 billion Education Infrastructure Program is contributing significantly to our economic recovery, with 18 new schools built and opened since 2015. As the Premier said, there are three new schools opening in 2022: Nirimba State School in Caloundra South in the excellent seat of Caloundra, eminently represented by the member for Caloundra; Everleigh State School at Greenbank, which is on the cusp of Logan and Jordan that have two great local members as well; and Coomera State Special School in the seat of Coomera. I am sorry Coomera, I cannot say the same in relation to your member!

We are investing around \$200 million to construct them. This is supporting nearly 600 local construction jobs. Enrolments have been coming in for weeks, with hundreds of students getting ready for their first day. Buildings and other educational infrastructure are almost completed at each school; in fact, I know that the members for Logan and Jordan are officiating on my behalf at the handover of the administration building at Everleigh State School next week for which I thank them.

We will be creating even more jobs with over \$1 billion already announced for 11 new schools to open in 2023 and 2024. Our record education infrastructure investment is helping to drive our economic recovery. If we want to see that recovery continue, we need Queenslanders to get vaccinated as it is the key to driving our economic recovery, staying safe and reuniting families for Christmas. Getting vaccinated is the best way to drive Queensland's economic recovery. We are looking forward to safe family reunions at Christmas time.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish our graduating year 12s all the very best. It has been another tough year with the threat of COVID looming large. I congratulate them all on navigating their way through 2021. For those attending Schoolies—and we heard from the Premier that it is a green light to go—have fun, but not too much fun, stay safe and please get vaccinated.