




Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

Record of Proceedings, 2 September 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft, Mr P

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.00 pm): After serving in the role for an outstanding 31 years, Paul Bancroft OAM recently retired as executive principal of Cleveland District State High School. I would like to congratulate Paul not only on his length of service and extraordinary leadership of a wonderful school in my electorate but also on his many achievements along the way. Appointed principal in 1990, Paul contributed greatly to the school's significant growth and fine reputation over the years. He was very much a well-respected and hands-on principal who kept a keen eye on things to make sure everything went according to plan. I recall joining him on one occasion to check out the construction of new buildings for the year 7s coming to high school for the very first time. Nobody blinked an eye at seeing Paul escorting the state member around the grounds, both of us in vests and hard hats and getting more than a little dust on our hands.

Paul was instrumental in the school becoming an independent public school. In fact, Cleveland State High School was one of the first Queensland schools to become an IPS. Paul believed in the ability to hire the best staff and to set up business partnerships without excessive red tape. His vision certainly came to fruition and the school continues to build on its success. Paul possessed the ability to connect the school with the wider community and to grow great partnerships. The University of the Third Age Redlands is just one example.

Paul was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday 2014 honours list for his service to education, sport and professional organisations. He has been credited with reshaping the school and introducing many improvements in educational programs and international studies. In addition to the OAM, Paul's accomplishments have been recognised with Cleveland State High School winning several prestigious awards. He was honoured to be named Education Queensland Principal of the Year in 2017, a fitting acknowledgement of his dedication and commitment to the role over many years.

Undisputedly, a project that will stand as a lasting legacy to Paul is the school's magnificent, state-of-the-art auditorium, aptly named the Paul Bancroft Centre. Paul is extremely proud of his multipurpose teaching, sports, arts, performance and presentation space. The completed building will long serve as a reminder of his steely determination and unwavering perseverance. It was a privilege for me to join with former members for Cleveland Darryl Briskey and Phil Weightman to stand alongside Paul at the official opening of the centre and to recognise his efforts.

On behalf of the school community and the Redlands community at large, I thank Paul for all that he has done for Cleveland State High School and for all that he has done throughout his distinguished career in advancing lifelong education for the young and the young at heart. I wish him and his family all the very best for the future.