




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Macalister Electorate; McKeon, Ms M

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.04 pm): The future is bright for young people in Macalister. Not only are our schools about to benefit from a big infrastructure spend courtesy of our election commitments, but our future tradies are going to receive cutting-edge, world-class training in Beenleigh. Beenleigh High's new hall, Carbrook State School's expanded administration building, Mount Warren Park State School's massive roof refurbishment project and Windaroo State School's new outdoor learning spaces will be a massive boost to our state schools. Having been able to touch base with each of the principals in the past two weeks I can confirm that discussions are already underway with department infrastructure staff on each of these projects.

The Macalister Youth Advisory Committee for the 57th Parliament has also convened for the first time this year. Fourteen young people from a range of education and work backgrounds have put their hands up to ensure that the voices of young people have the ability to influence policy and decisions. I look forward to their contribution, their advice and their projects going forward over the duration of this term.

This year has also seen the official sod turning of the \$20 million expansion of the Beenleigh Trade Training Centre, the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre, to not only expand and cater for increased training capacity but also to become home to the Hydrogen Centre of Excellence. Beenleigh will be positioned to become the home of future hydrogen workforce training. It is further proof of our commitment to workers and tradies in Queensland that this government backs them, their skills and their ability to be the best in the world at what they do. Skilled jobs and secure employment is what we believe in.

While I am ambitious for the young people of Macalister, no-one can ignore the contribution of our senior citizens and the community organisations that they participate in. Many of our electorates have organisations like Quota and in Beenleigh one of the driving forces of Quota Beenleigh has been Moya McKeon. Moya had been present at every changeover dinner I have been to and was a driving force behind the QuoCKas, a group of Quota volunteers that go into our primary schools to assist with reading and donate books to kids of all ages. I joined Moya at several schools to do reading over the past term and when I checked in on her during the height of the COVID pandemic last year she was looking forward to getting back into schools to continue the QuoCKa program. When Moya passed away last week, Beenleigh lost a giant in the volunteer community. While we will take the time to mourn her at a service this coming Friday, I know that there will be Quota volunteers, both senior and from Junior Quota, who will carry on her work because that is what good communities do. Vale, Moya McKeon.