




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Aspley Electorate, Schools; Zillmere Festival

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.04 pm): I rise to speak about the impressive hard work local school communities have been putting in on a range of fronts in the Aspley area. It was an honour last week to be part of the Craigslea State High School community for the official unveiling of its First Nations mural painted by First Nations artist Jenny Kent and Manamana Dreaming. I visited along with the member for Stafford and the federal member for Lilley.

School captains Aretha, Armaan, Jordan and Covey were the drivers of the significant project which seeks to unite our community in our shared commitment to reconciliation. Through the use of native flora and fauna, this artwork stands as a symbolic reminder to us of our ongoing responsibility to respect the traditional custodians of our land. It is in a prominent location, right outside the school hall and it looks absolutely fantastic.

Jenny collaborated with the school's Indigenous students, ultimately designing a mural that encapsulates all facets of Craigslea State High School life including its students, staff, parents, core values and the local environment. I had the honour of adding my fingerprint to the mural along with many of those present on the day.

I want to recognise and thank the Craigslea State High School P&C Association for the hard work they put into the installation as well as the continued support of the school. It was an absolute privilege to be a part of this and to support this initiative, so I thank Craigslea State High School for that opportunity. I say well done to the student teachers, Michelle and the P&C, Robyn and Naomi and the school council. It is a fantastic outcome.

I am delighted to see there is another exciting unveiling of an Indigenous mural taking place tomorrow at Aspley East State School, which their P&C has brought about. While I am disappointed I will not be able to personally attend this one due to parliament sitting, I am inspired by the positive impact this vibrant mural will have on the local Aspley East community. The project will celebrate the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, ultimately bolstering the sense of community. Again, I say well done to the Aspley East P&C for backing this important project.

I will now touch briefly on other school projects in the area. The Aspley Special School's new block is expected to be completed at the end of this year. This is an outstanding \$11 million investment which will help provide students with a two-storey, 12-classroom learning facility which will expand the school's learning opportunities. I was there recently to check on progress. It was great to get a run-down from Broad Construction, which also did the Aspley State High School sports hall next door. The special school students especially liked hearing about progress on their new building. They cannot wait to move in.

Finally, I would like to make mention of Geebung Special School, which also put in the hard yards to install a brand new learning play centre at the back of their block. It is going to be ready in early 2023 and it will be outstanding.

Before I finish, I must say I really enjoyed Zillmere Festival on the weekend. It was great to be in the member for Nudgee's electorate. It was the first festival they have had since 2019. I say well done to Jabiru, event organisers and volunteers. It made for a very special day.