




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.59 am): We are putting energy efficiency and renewables at the heart of the new schools that we are building in the fastest growing parts of our state. Next year four new schools will open in Augustine Heights, Palmview, Ripley and Yarrabilba. That is a total investment of \$330 million supporting 900 good jobs and ensuring even better educational services in those communities.

The new schools will have solar panels, joining the 200,000 we have already installed in Queensland state schools—enough to power all of the homes in the Gladstone LGA. We are positioning the buildings to limit their exposure to morning and afternoon sun which will reduce the energy needed for air conditioning. There are LED lights on timers, insulation and the Augustine Heights school will even have a 4,000-litre rainwater tank to water the school's veggie garden. This approach contributes to the Palaszczuk government's \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which is all about a future of cleaner, cheaper and secure energy for Queenslanders and powering good jobs in new regional industries. By 2032 it means 70 per cent of Queensland's energy supply will be renewable, taking real action on climate change now and creating 100,000 jobs.

I have some exciting news about these new schools to share with the House. Following extensive community consultation, I can reveal their official names. The schools will be known as Woogaroo Creek State School in Augustine Heights in the electorate of Jordan; Palmview State Secondary College in Palmview in the electorate of Buderim; Ripley Central State School in Ripley in the electorate of Ipswich; and South Rock State School in Yarrabilba in the electorate of Logan. All of the names have their own stories and community input. For example, Woogaroo Creek has geographical, cultural and environmental significance for the area and the land where the school in Augustine Heights is being built. Foundation principal Kendall Secombe said that the name was a clear winner, polling 80 per cent in the final round of online voting.

I know the new principals and their communities are very excited for day one next year, as are all local members who I am sure will warmly welcome foundation students. When the schools open in 2023, it will take the number of new schools the Palaszczuk government has opened since 2015 to 25—an investment of more than \$3 billion in brand new schools. Whether it is our schools or our Energy and Jobs Plan, the Palaszczuk government is proudly investing in Queensland's future.