




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.10 pm): Waterford is lucky to be home to so many incredible primary and secondary schools. Every day, the hardworking teachers, principals and staff of our schools dedicate themselves to our community's next generation. I have always believed in these schools. Recently, there has been a flurry of exciting achievements and projects announced to back up my belief.

Firstly, Marsden State High School was recently awarded Australia's best secondary school—an amazing accomplishment. It is all the more amazing because it is not just the first or second time they have won this award, but the third year in a row. Congratulations also to Marsden's Alison Fahlbusch for receiving the Principal of the Year award and the school for winning Best Professional Development Program. I have to give a special thank you to Andrew Peach, who is currently on leave, who has served as Marsden's executive principal for the last eight years. While it comes as no surprise to me that Marsden would win this prize, it is terrific to see them getting the public recognition they deserve.

I was also so proud to recently stand beside education minister, Grace Grace, and our two treasurers from Logan, Cameron Dick and Jim Chalmers, to open a new \$24.8 million STEM precinct and automotive training facility at Mabel Park State High School. Given the enormous growth in student enrolments at Mabel Park over recent years, this new state-of-the-art facility is an invaluable addition to the school community and to the Logan community. Local families can be proud that their school, right in the heart of Logan, is providing modern teaching and learning facilities that will inspire our next generation of leaders. Students at Mabel Park State High School deserve the best and now they have it.

Speaking of exciting projects, I was equally thrilled to let the principal of Loganlea State High School know that they had secured \$11 million for a brand new school hall in the government's June budget. This massive boost will provide Loganlea State High School with the facilities they need to give our kids a world-class education for years to come.

Finally, I want to give a shout out to Beenleigh State High School, that is just outside my electorate but very proudly in the member for Macalister's electorate. Together we attended their annual Paddock to Plate event. I have to say that it is one of my favourite events of the year. The incredible students at Beenleigh State High School, well assisted by chef Matt Golinski, produced the fruit, vegetables and meat that went into each delicious dish, all through their school's onsite farm. The ag tech students helped grow the produce and the hospitality students worked with Matt Golinski in the kitchen and served up delicious meals. Beenleigh State High School also partners with local producers and businesses to provide employment opportunities for students.

It was at this event several years ago that we made our first free TAFE announcement. It is wonderful that this week the government has extended this wonderful program. The students and staff of Waterford and the Logan area never cease to amaze me. I am so proud to represent them. I love bragging about their achievements and I will continue to fight for them every single day.