




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Thuringowa Electorate, Schools

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.02 pm): Having listened to that contribution, it sounds like they need a harder working local member in Kawana. I have a very proud record of delivering infrastructure in Thuringowa, particularly for our schools. I have 11 schools and I have proudly delivered for each of the primary schools. Whether it is tuckshop upgrades, shelter sheds, security fences or block upgrades, they get everything.

There are three state high schools in Thuringowa. In 2015-16 I lobbied for Kirwan State High School to get a hall for their 2,000 students. We delivered that. With the quadrangle, that was a \$12 million investment into that school. Heatley Secondary College is my old high school. In the following term I worked with the broader school community and delivered \$12 million of funding for their performing arts centre. I am very proud with the progress we have seen. We have also assisted Ryan Catholic College with their upgrades.

Thuringowa State High School pumps above its weight. They have been waiting a long time as other schools have had halls built and so on. I am very proud to announce that, just a few days ago, I joined with the principal, Kaylene—

Mr Stewart: Mladenovic.

Mr HARPER: I never can say it correctly; thank you, member for Townsville—and the P&C President, Krystle Lewis, for the sod turn on an almost \$13 million investment in that school. They get a health science building as part of the construction project. On the back of a 2020 election commitment, Thuringowa State High School will get a new hall where they can perform. I am sure members will remember I made a speech recently about the school's theatre restaurant. Those kids work and train for months to do that. I think at the last theatre restaurant performance there was a particular character called Kneewucker. The kids work hard. They deserve this.

This is a proud Labor government initiative that is now underway. The sod has been turned. Construction is underway. I am working with the P&C. I give the P&C a shout-out. They committed and raised \$100,000 towards that build. They deserve to be congratulated. I thank the broader school community. I doorknocked through that area a number of years ago to get their support. Together we did it.

I will keep delivering for our schools. I cannot wait to see that centre opened next year. The school will be able to continue their 35-year tradition with the theatre restaurant, which is a special thing that Thuringowa high does.