




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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ADJOURNMENT

Coolum State High School

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.07 pm): I would like to take the opportunity tonight to talk about a fantastic school in my electorate that I have proudly spoken about before in this place but about which I am eager to update the House. Students at Coolum State High School are leading the state in their achievements in the classroom, on the sporting field and on the stage. It was a privilege to celebrate their success with all the teachers, staff, parents and our community at their annual celebration of excellence evening only a few weeks ago. The top accolade on the evening is the prestigious Wandama Award presented to the highest achieving year 12 student. This year's recipient was Jessnee, an outstanding student whose achievements have been nothing short of exemplary and are some of the highest in the state. Jessnee made history by becoming the first student ever to achieve a perfect score of 110 points when the calculations were made for the Wandama Award.

Another equally prestigious award is the outstanding citizen award proudly sponsored by their local state member of parliament. This year I was honoured to present this award to Polly Salsbury. Polly is a wonderful member of the school and wider community. She is involved in all aspects of school life and has been a quiet yet influential leader of the school council, fostering an inclusive culture within the school. As I said to principal Troy Ascot on the night, it was abundantly clear to the large crowd in attendance, who witnessed some of the amazing talent that was on display by the singers, dancers, musicians, performers, speakers and award recipients, that a lot of people have invested a lot of time into the students at Coolum State High School and that the students, thanks to this mentoring and expert tuition, are clearly thriving across all disciplines in that environment.

Speaking of that environment, it has recently been enhanced by some first-class facilities. The newest addition to these facilities is the new building the school has fittingly named Gagel Giri, which in Gubbi Gubbi language means 'shining light', which reflects the outstanding rise of musical excellence that shines at Coolum High. The facility boasts soundproof music studios that will foster the astounding rise that the school has recently achieved. There are also some state-of-the-art classrooms and art facilities, along with four new basketball courts on the ground level.

After a long period of construction, the students have recently moved in. The official opening is scheduled for early next month. I acknowledge the education minister, who is in the House at the moment. At lunch today I personally invited her to come to the opening. I know that she has been invited and has a busy calendar, but the school and the students would love to see the minister there so that she can see firsthand some of the outstanding achievements of the school and also the amazing facility.

In closing, I congratulate school principal Troy Ascot, his leadership team, all the staff and teachers, and the P&C. They all work tirelessly to improve facilities and the environment at the school. I look forward to seeing the minister, hopefully, early next month.