



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Local Schools, Local Jobs**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering the skills students need for the jobs they want through our new \$66 million Local Schools, Local Jobs program which is being driven by the Assistant Minister for Education, the member for Keppel. This election commitment is all about supporting the significant role that schools play in linking up with local industries and ensuring students access skills for well-paid, secure jobs based in their own communities.

Last year I joined the member for Waterford and the member for Woodridge—in fact, we had both treasurers there—to open Mabel Park State High School's new \$28 million cutting-edge STEM precinct, incorporating a \$4 million Local Schools, Local Jobs automotive training facility where students can explore the latest automotive technologies such as solar powered vehicles. We have also delivered a further five projects.

At Longreach State High School in Gregory there has been a \$3.7 million upgrade of the Big Red Truck, which I know the member knows is a fantastic catering facility supporting students to obtain hospitality qualifications with local partnerships including CQU, the Qantas Founders Museum and the Winton Outback Festival. I can say that they made the best coffee when I visited their facility. Dalby State High School in Warrego has a \$3 million refurbishment of the trade training centre, where students are now getting technology and engineering qualifications to help set them up in the local manufacturing industry. Caboolture State High School in Morayfield has a new \$1.7 million specialist health learning centre, and a partnership with TAFE Queensland means that more than 70 students are now undertaking qualifications in a range of health services.

In the electorate of Mulgrave, Bentley Park College has a new \$1.4 million medical training room where 100 students are studying health and science qualifications, linking with hospitals, dentists and Royal Flying Doctor Service. At Moree State High School students have a new \$1 million technology hub and are completing qualifications in robotics, coding and virtual reality programming.

In 2023 we are planning to deliver a further 19 projects, including: a new \$4.6 million agriculture research facility at Rockhampton State High School; a \$3.2 million engineering annex to support training opportunities in the mining, gas and electrical industries at Tara Shire State College; Thuringowa State High School will receive a \$1.7 million refurbished health science facility; and a \$3 million hydrogen hub at Gladstone State High School will complement the approximately \$20 million investment we are making in a new ITD building at the school. It was fantastic to join the minister and member for Gladstone at the school last year to talk about these fantastic projects.

The Palaszcuk government is committed to ensuring our schools are places where children can learn and teachers deliver a world-class education in high quality learning environments. We want students to get the skills they need for the good jobs available locally so they can stay in their communities. The member for Keppel and I look forward to visiting many of these schools as these vital projects come to life during the year, and I am sure other members will want to join us.