



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is continuing to deliver good jobs and better services for Queensland's fastest growing communities under our \$3 billion Building Future Schools program, with 25 new schools open since 2015 and more to come. This year we opened four new schools at Yarrabilba in Logan, Ripley in Ipswich, Augustine Heights in Jordan and Palmview in Buderim. This \$330 million investment supported 900 good, secure jobs for Queenslanders throughout construction. What a pleasure it was to join the member for Logan at South Rock State School on day 1 of this term.

Good governments constantly review what needs to be done and where. It has become clear that some of our new schools will not be needed as quickly as predicted a few years ago. Stabilising enrolments in some areas as well as curveballs from unprecedented flooding and changes to federal koala protection laws mean that other schools initially planned for 2024 will now not be needed until 2025 and beyond. Today I can update the House. Two new schools will open in 2024: Redland Bay primary in Redlands and Bellbird Park primary in Bundamba. Together, these schools are an investment of \$160 million and will support 80 local jobs. In 2025 six new schools will open in our fastest growing areas. Five primary schools will welcome students in Park Ridge, Caboolture West, Caloundra South, Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone. Also in 2024 a new secondary school will open in Collingwood Park and there will be additional new classrooms and facilities for Springfield Central State High School.

Changes to federal laws protecting koalas means that land earmarked for a new secondary school in Park Ridge can no longer be built on, and my department is in the process of selecting a new site. Unprecedented flooding and further community consultation means that the former Toowong Bowls Club site has been deemed no longer suitable for a new primary school in Brisbane's inner west. The original pre-COVID 2019 business case for the new primary school will now be reviewed and updated, and I will continue to work with the local member. Stabilising enrolments mean that we can now take the time to secure more suitable sites.

**Ms Simpson:** What a surprise.

**Ms GRACE:** I take the interjection from the member for Maroochydore. We build schools and open them; we do not sell them!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection: 50 schools earmarked to be closed!

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, your interjections are not being helpful. Minister, your taking of that interjection and slinging it back was also not helpful for the House.

**Ms GRACE:** Stabilising enrolments means we can now take the time to secure more suitable sites in the inner west and Park Ridge, safe in the knowledge that with upgrades to existing schools, some of which are already taking place, we have the capacity to accommodate students in the meantime. The Palaszczuk government is committed to, and has a proud record of, delivering new and enhanced education infrastructure wherever and whenever it is needed.