



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **School Infrastructure; Housing**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): Our over \$10 billion investment in education infrastructure since 2015 has seen new halls, classroom buildings and new schools constructed right across Queensland. We stand proudly on our record of delivering world-class facilities for students, staff and school communities including air-conditioning every classroom, library and staffroom across the state, delivered ahead of time and on budget—in fact, six years ahead of any alternative approach.

This record infrastructure commitment also extends to our teachers—ensuring we attract and retain teachers to deliver world-class education to all students, particularly in regional and remote schools. The Palaszczuk government provides housing for teachers in many rural and remote areas and housing assistance in other locations. To meet our housing needs, my department is providing innovative solutions such as two three-bedroom prefabricated and transportable buildings that we are delivering on Queensland Education owned land at Kilcummin State School in the Burdekin electorate. We are also building a new duplex on Saibai Island in the Torres Strait and we are investing \$10 million this budget for housing acquisitions to support emerging housing requirements.

Since 2015 we have invested around \$92 million to upgrade and maintain teacher housing across the state, including the Housing Improvement Program, which commenced in 2017-18, helping to attract and retain teachers in rural and remote communities by modernising teacher accommodation. Works under the HIP include: upgrades to kitchens; bathrooms; laundries; flooring; air conditioning; replacement of doors, security screens and windows; carports; and external painting.

My department is also working with QBuild, which is delivering the biggest investment in government employee housing in a generation. The half a billion dollar package will build another 439 homes for around 550 frontline staff across Queensland's regional and remote communities. The department is also exploring opportunities to work with the newly opened QBuild Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centre where we will build state-of-the-art factory built houses for our frontline workers including teachers and staff. These innovative solutions are delivering housing for teachers and frontline workers throughout Queensland. They deserve nothing less.