




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Local Schools, Local Jobs

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is helping our youngest Queenslanders get the skills they need for the jobs they want through our Local Schools Local Jobs program. This election commitment is all about supporting the significant role that schools play in linking up with local industries and ensuring students can access well-paid, secure jobs based in their own communities.

What a pleasure it was to join the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel at Rockhampton State High School last week to officially open the around \$5 million state-of-the-art aquaculture centre. It is so impressive. I say thank you to principal Kirsten Dwyer, aquaculture teacher Collis Holloway, school elder Wade Mann and students Shenae and Lachlan, who gave us a tour. Facilities include six 10,000 litre grow-out tanks and state-of-the-art equipment including automated oxygen control.

This is one of the largest and most technologically advanced centres in an Australian school, and five apprentices also learned their trade during the build. It will provide tremendous teaching capacity, including a pathway training for Certificate II in Aquaculture. It will not only help students to get good jobs in an emerging and expanding industry, with three local businesses already working with the school; it will also significantly contribute to the local fishing industry. Students will grow 10-centimetre fingerlings out to 25 to 30 centimetres and will release thousands of tag-size barramundi per year into the Fitzroy Tunuba River catchment. You do not have to go to Far North Queensland, member for Cook, to fish for barramundi; you can do it right there in Rocky! The school is working with the Fitzroy River Fish Stocking Association, local fishing tourism industry bodies and Mayor Tony Williams at Rockhampton Regional Council. He has been a champion for this project from the very beginning.

I am pleased to inform the House that 15 of our 26 Local Schools, Local Jobs projects have now been delivered, including: the \$4 million automotive training centre as part of the \$28 million cutting-edge STEM precinct at Mabel Park State High School in Waterford; a \$3.7 million upgrade to the Big Red Truck catering facility at Longreach State High School, which the Premier visited recently, to support students doing hospitality qualifications in the electorate of Gregory; and a \$1.7 million specialist health learning centre at Caboolture State High School in Morayfield, where more than 70 students are undertaking qualifications in a range of health services.

There is more to come as part of our \$78 million investment, including: a STEM space at Clermont State High School in Burdekin; an agricultural centre at St George State High School in Warrego; and health sciences spaces at Thuringowa State High School in Thuringowa. We want students to get the skills they need for the good jobs available locally so that they can stay in their communities. I look forward to visiting many of these schools as these vital projects come to completion.