




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

State Schools, Renewable Energy

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.59 am): The Palaszczuk government stands on its record of and commitment to creating a clean energy future. Our state schools are playing their part in creating this cleaner and greener future. I am proud to be part of a government which has made the biggest commitment to renewable energy in Australia's history through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

When it comes to jobs and workers of the future, the Palaszczuk government is helping our youngest Queenslanders get the skills they need for the jobs they want through our now \$78 million Local Schools, Local Jobs program. We took this commitment to the election because we recognised how crucial it is to support the important role schools play in linking up with local industries and ensuring students can access well-paid, secure jobs based in their own communities—none more so than the hydrogen industry, which will play an increasingly important role in sustainably powering Queensland into the future. At Gladstone State High School plans are underway for a \$26 million industrial technology and design building. Work has now finished on the \$3 million new hydrogen facilities, including hydrogen training hub lab classrooms. This is a really exciting project for the school, especially given Gladstone is well and truly on the map as a world-leading hydrogen hub.

Our focus on jobs of the future has also seen projects delivered in other parts of Queensland: at Chinchilla State High School in the electorate of Callide, where a new \$3.2 million engineering building has been completed, delivering vocational training programs in Chinchilla and the greater Western Downs region; at Sunnybank State High School in the electorate of Toohey, the new \$6 million ITD lab includes specialised equipment and a smart manufacturing centre; and Rockhampton State High School in the electorate of Rockhampton has received nearly \$5 million worth of aquaculture research facilities which just last month I had the pleasure of officially opening with the members for Rockhampton and Keppel.

I am also immensely proud of our \$168 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools, ACES, program. This outstanding program is reducing energy costs across more than 900 Queensland state schools through the installation of solar panels and other energy efficiency measures. We have installed more panels at more schools than we set out to. Some 200,000 panels now sit on school roofs. That is about \$26 million of electricity savings per year. This comes on top of our Cooler Cleaner Schools Program completed in April last year, two months ahead of schedule—and six years ahead of the LNP's plan, I might add. Students are sitting in air-conditioned classrooms right now, not sweating it out until 2028. You are welcome, all of you!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms GRACE: They are so happy about air conditioning in their schools.

Mr Krause interjected.

Ms GRACE: I can hear the member for Scenic Rim. He absolutely loves it in his electorate. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our schools are places where children can learn and teachers can deliver a world-class education to provide opportunities for students to pursue the career of their choice now and into the future. They deserve nothing less.