



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Education Infrastructure; Year 12 Students**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.21 am): We are delivering world-class learning environments right across Queensland through our \$2.1 billion education infrastructure program for 2023-24. This is part of Queensland's Big Build—an \$89 billion investment over the next four years, with more than half of this in regional Queensland. Our \$2.1 billion funding will see the Palaszczuk government's investment in education infrastructure across Queensland since 2015 at more than \$12 billion. It is a significant figure and one which we are all truly proud of. I get to see this investment at work every day when I visit schools. Regardless of students' background, circumstances or postcode, we are delivering new schools, classrooms, halls and playgrounds—the list goes on, including air conditioning in every school—for Queensland students.

Since 2015 we have delivered 25 new schools, with two more to open in 2024 at Redland Bay. We are investing around \$145 million for the construction of two schools, Scenic Shores State School and Bellbird Park State School. This supports an average of 85 local construction jobs over the life of the projects. Our ever-popular school halls program will see a further \$259 million to be invested in 18 schools for new or improved halls, indoor sporting facilities and performing arts centres, taking our total investment in halls in Queensland since 2015 to over \$970 million. Our new halls investment in the current budget will roll out over the next three years, with over half of these halls to be located in regional Queensland. Halls will be delivered at Dalby State High School in Warrego, Eidsvold State School in Callide, Freshwater State School in Barron River, Kilkivan State School in Nanango and Yandina State School in Nicklin—to mention but a few. We are continuing to deliver the halls which were part of our 2020 Great Schools, Great Future policy, with halls to be completed in the first half of next year at The Hall State School in Rockhampton, Oakey State High School in Condamine, Seven Hills State School in Bulimba and Kilcoy State High School in Nanango. You are welcome, member for Nanango.

Our \$78 million Local Schools, Local Jobs program is unashamedly aimed at schools in regional Queensland to help our youngest Queenslanders get the skills they need for the jobs they want in their own geographical areas by enhancing training facilities at regional schools.

We are also playing our part in the housing space, with over \$76 million allocated for the acquisition, renewal, maintenance and improvement of housing in rural and remote areas. Let's not forget our record \$405 million in this budget for ongoing maintenance projects at our 1,262 schools and early childhood education centres. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring schools are places where children can learn and teachers can deliver a world-class education in accessible and inclusive learning environments.

I wish our graduating year 12s all the very best for a bright future. Many thanks to the teachers, parents and carers and school communities that have supported them on their 13-year schooling journey. Take care and stay safe, especially at schoolies.