



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Education Infrastructure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.52 am): Since 2015, the Palaszczuk government has invested more than \$12 billion in education infrastructure across Queensland. That means millions of dollars invested in new schools, classrooms, halls, playgrounds and tuckshops—and the list goes on. We are delivering world-class learning environments right across the state, with \$2.1 billion for education infrastructure in the 2023-24 budget alone. This is part of Queensland's Big Build—an \$89 billion investment over the next four years, with more than half being spent in regional Queensland.

Since 2015 we have delivered 25 new schools, with two more due to open in 2024 in Redland Bay—Scenic Shores State School and Bellbird Park. We are investing around \$145 million for the construction of these two schools, supporting an average of 85 construction jobs over the life of the projects. We have also invested over \$800 million in 46 special schools across Queensland—an achievement the Palaszczuk government is very proud of. This investment has delivered four brand new special schools—in Cairns, Caboolture, Palmview and Coomera—with planning underway for another special school in the Logan area.

In the last week or so I have had the pleasure of seeing the fantastic results of our education infrastructure investment. At Coolum State High School in the electorate of Ninderry I officially opened the school's new \$20 million learning centre, which the school has named Gagal-Gira—an Indigenous word for 'shining light'. I visited Mudgeeraba Special School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba to officially open a new \$15 million learning centre. How wonderful it was to get a tour of the new facility by school captains Erin and Jay. At Miami State High School in the electorate of Mermaid Beach I opened the school's new \$13 million sports hall. It was great to see this magnificent new sporting centre of excellence and it was really good to see all local members there as well. We are continuing to deliver 37 new halls, which were part of our 2020 Great Schools Great Future policy. This will see new halls completed at Pimlico State High School in Townsville, Warwick State High School in Southern Downs, Woree State School in Mulgrave and Clifton State High School in Condamine.

In addition to this, we are investing more than \$10 million for accommodation upgrades at our schools of distance education. This will enable students from remote areas to come together to meet with their peers and engage face to face with teachers at mini schools, sports days and graduations. We have now delivered refurbished overnight accommodation at schools of distance education in Cairns, Charters Towers, Longreach and Emerald. They have now welcomed back students to these upgraded facilities. The Outstation, Shed and Tuckerbox buildings at Emerald and the famous 'Quarters' at Longreach campus have been given a new lease of life and made safe for use. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring schools are places where children can learn and teachers can deliver a world-class education. We will continue to invest in accessible and inclusive learning environments right across our great state.