




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Algester Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (7.16 pm): Pallara in my electorate of Algester is one of the fastest growing suburbs in the south-east and Pallara State School is fast becoming one of the largest primary schools in Queensland. Over the past six years there has been tremendous growth in this catchment area which inevitably means enrolment growth at the school.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of education and the facilities that support a healthy learning environment. That is why we are investing \$15.8 million to construct a new three-storey learning centre, providing 21 additional learning spaces. This is on top of the new classrooms already delivered recently.

I recently hosted a meeting with Pallara State School P&C members Mandi Tran, Sammy Barnett and Jacob Senyard, along with the school principal, business manager and Education Queensland regional staff, for an update on the progress of the new classrooms. The department is installing four temporary additional learning spaces whilst the big build is underway.

It is a requirement to undertake extensive consultation and reach a resolution with Brisbane City Council before the project can proceed. The department staff informed the meeting that negotiations were still underway with Brisbane City Council, with a number of matters still not resolved, which is incredibly disappointing given the school needs these new classrooms. I implore Brisbane City Council to back our school and the Queensland government investment in the Algester electorate.

Pallara State School is not the only school in the Algester electorate benefiting from the Palaszczuk government's investment in education. The 2023-24 state budget is also delivering for Watson Road State School. A \$1.2 million investment in Watson Road will mean a completely refurbished amenities block with brand new epoxy flooring, cubicles, wash basins and pedestals—a terrific improvement for students and staff. This investment will also mean a completely new playground, shade structure and soft-fall completed next year as part of the government's initial \$20 million allocation of School Playground and Tuckshop Upgrades Program funding.

In addition to these fantastic major upgrades to Watson Road State School and Pallara State School, both schools will also receive funding to support minor infrastructure projects. These minor infrastructure projects ensure our schools have safe and modern learning and play environments, which is why multiple schools in my electorate of Algester will benefit from this funding. Schools that will receive funding to support minor infrastructure works include Acacia Ridge State School, Algester State School, Calamvale Community College and Calamvale Special School. I would also like to acknowledge the teachers, support staff, principals and P&Cs for their strong advocacy for their schools.

On another note I would like to acknowledge the announcement by St Stephen's Catholic Primary School principal Mr Mike Quinn on his upcoming retirement. He has been a great educator and an outstanding leader for the school community. I thank him for his outstanding service to education and I wish him the very, very best for his upcoming retirement.