



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Merrimac State School**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.59 pm): Today I rise to speak to and table a nonconforming petition on behalf of the school leaders of Merrimac State School, one of the wonderful schools within my electorate.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding the installation of a water bubbler at Merrimac State School [1660](#).

A few months ago I met the year 6 leaders. Our principal Shannon Lusk encouraged them to take an interest in politics in terms of how they could initiate change and how they could go about it. Since then they have been busy signing away—as demonstrated by this petition—for the Minister for Education to provide funding for a new cold water bubbler system for the students. Previously, the student council of Merrimac State School had conducted fundraising activities over the course of two years to fund the cold water bubbler in the junior part of the school. If this does not highlight a great school spirit, I do not know what does—a year 6 student-led funding initiative that was used to provide their younger school pupils with a cold water bubbler. How lovely is that? As a result, the junior school students have enjoyed the small luxury of a cold drink during recess, lunch and after running around for sport. I believe that the seniors at Merrimac State School should be afforded this same small luxury.

A drink of cold water goes a long way on a hot school day in hot school uniforms. A new cold water bubbler system would be installed in the seniors' section of the school for the seniors to enjoy. This would go a long way for all students. With hot summer days approaching, a cold drink of water will be very much needed. Not only does having a cold water bubbler help on those hot school days but also encourages improved hydration for students and is demonstrated to promote better educational outcomes.

As to their support of this petition, the school community has made its support loud and clear. The petition has 222 signatures from the Merrimac community. As the member for Mudgeeraba, I am a proud supporter of Merrimac State School, and I respectfully request that the education minister consider this petition and the request for funding. I think it absolutely extraordinary that these young schoolkids wanted to get involved in making change. They wanted to make a change for other kids in their school, not just for themselves.

In order to get involved in the process I had to teach them what a parliamentary petition was and how they had to go about it. As I said, they have taken it up with vim and vigour. It is a pity the education minister is not in the chamber, because I am sure she would support this. A small funding commitment for a cold water bubbler will go a long way for those senior students at Merrimac State School. After the generosity and effort of the school community to fund and provide the junior students with this cold water bubbler by themselves, I think the seniors at Merrimac State School should be afforded the same small luxury the junior school pupils enjoy. I look forward to hearing from the Minister for Education.