




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Logan Electorate, Schools

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.08 pm): It looks like it's 'bring back Ray', but this time to the Gold Coast mayoralty! I represent a fast growing area of Logan and there are many school-aged children. Perhaps even tonight there is a young family turning the key at their new house in the area between Logan Reserve and Boronia Heights in Park Ridge for the first time. As a former teacher, I am always excited when we are working and building a new school. This time it is on Park Ridge Road. The last time I updated the House we were turning the sod on the site. I can now update the House that the slabs have been poured and tilt slabs are going up with the cranes. I apologise to people for the trucks moving in and out of the site. We know that we need to be safe moving in and off the site, but local families are incredibly excited to see future classrooms being built.

They also love that the project has the second FamilyLinQ hub to be opened in Logan city, a state-first initiative that will connect education, health and community services all under one roof to improve life outcomes for children and their families. We are building this new primary school with a long day care centre and a kindergarten centre as part of stage 1. Vitality for future health, it is going to have a multipurpose hall with a stage, outdoor multipurpose court and dedicated music, kitchen, art, science and robotics learning areas. The new school will open for students in term 1 of 2025, with enrolments opening after the appointment of a principal in mid 2024.

That will bring some relief to some of the schools like Park Ridge State School—the original one—where we have just built a new admin centre. That has allowed the old admin space that used to be upstairs, where prams could not gain access, to be developed for new classrooms. The new admin centre has new classrooms as well. That goes along with the new buildings we have built at Logan Reserve State School, which the member for Waterford and I share. That is going to bring relief to both of those schools. As a teacher, I know that great education can make an incredible difference and I know that a growing area needs a government that wants to invest and build in an area that has needs. This is going to take the pressure off other schools but it will also be a great base for those families.

One would think that in a growing area like mine the previous government would have seen this value as well. We know—I have told this House many times before and I will tell it to the people of Logan eternally—that they made no new investments in classrooms in Logan. I do not mean no new schools but no new classrooms. That is why we are at risk: the very fast growing areas are going to be hurt by any future government that does not value that investment. During that time they made absolutely no investment in our schools. They certainly did not invest in Yarrabilba, which is growing very fast. We need a government that understands it. I will continue to fight for the families of Logan every day.