




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Greenbank High School; Member for Cairns

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (11.31 pm): A Greenbank high school is coming thanks to the strong support of our local communities. The member for Logan and I have been advocating for a high school in this region; however, we also understood that with limited population we needed to bide our time. We also consistently raised the need to begin planning for a high school in the area because we understood that growth was coming as a result of the Greater Flagstone Priority Development Area.

In 2022 we got a commitment for the education department to begin that work when I backed this up with a survey, to which I received 700 responses, all expressing their support for a school in the area. In 2024 the member for Logan and I made a very clear commitment that a re-elected Labor government would secure and purchase land for a new high school. There was no commitment from the LNP, so following the election we launched a community petition calling on the Crisafulli LNP government to meet our commitment and purchase land for this high school.

Our community supported our calls for action and we received more than 850 signatures to our petition, which we then presented to the Minister for Education. Initially his office made it clear in the media that Park Ridge State High School had enough capacity for Greenbank students. The minister himself said in the House on 24 June that he was not sure how, following our petition, he was magically supposed to deliver the land. Except that on 27 July, a Sunday afternoon, rather quietly the minister did just that: he announced the purchase of land for a new high school in Greenbank. It is like he did not know what his own department was doing, including the fact that the selected site had been zoned for the high school in the developer's plans and earmarked by the education department for this purpose. Perhaps he also did not know that Labor had previously included a specific land acquisition fund in the education budget, which obviously was then used to purchase the land in Greenbank.

Whilst we wait for the minister to catch up, I thank our incredible Greenbank community for stepping up and supporting our petition, putting pressure on the government to act. We know just how important this school will be for what is a growing population. With estates such as Everleigh and Covella coming on very strongly in the Greater Flagstone PDA, we know that these schools are growing, including Everleigh State School and Greenbank State School, and the high school will be a very important addition.

Finally, whilst I am on my feet I express my support for the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the member for Cairns. I have since watched the video in question. There are a number of jokes that certainly do not meet the expectations of the communities we seek to represent. Misogynistic jokes are never funny and can never be excused. I have spoken with the member for Cairns to express my disappointment. I know that he has apologised unreservedly to the House, to his colleagues and to the community.