



Speech By Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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ADJOURNMENT

School Infrastructure

Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (10.52 pm): This is something I am really as passionate about. As a father of three teenagers, but especially as a teacher, I really understand how important education is. Working as a teacher I saw some fantastic, great, caring and hardworking teachers at local high schools. High school teachers can transform how a young person experiences life. That is especially true if that high school is part of their community. I want to recognise the great work of the high school teachers at Park Ridge school, Sharon Amos and the fantastic music program there. Those local schools, Park Ridge and Boronia Heights, have made a difference for a generation.

Park Ridge State High School has over 1,745 students but it is projected that will soon be over 2,000. Both Park Ridge and Greenbank are growing really quickly. Corymbia State School, which opened this year—I will return to this—has over 550 students. That is why the member for Jordan and I have for some years been pushing for a new high school for Greenbank. We worked with the community, EDQ and the education department to push for a new school. After consultation and feedback, the site opposite Everleigh State School was identified and the developer has worked with the department to prepare it for sale. At the last election, the member for Jordan and I made the commitment that we would purchase the site and put in place construction for the high school. Now all we see from the LNP is inaction. The Minister for Education briefly did turn up to Corymbia and cut a few ribbons. At that point I brought up the issue of the need for new high schools in our area. The Park Ridge and Greenbank areas are the fastest growing areas in Queensland. That is why we need this school.

I call on the government to buy the new site for the school and put in place a timetable for construction. We built the Corymbia State School, we built the new special education unit at Flagstone, we built the new Yarrabilba State High School and we built the new Yarrabilba State School. I want it to be as good as Yarrabilba State School. I want it to have a performing arts centre just like the Yarrabilba State School. I want it to have TAFE Connect, where students can engage with technical education. I want it to have a great hall such as the one at Yarrabilba, which is a centrepiece for Yarrabilba basketball. I want to see things delivered in time for this very fast growing community. I will not stop until the LNP delivers what Greenbank and Park Ridge deserve.