




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Newmarket State School

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (2.31 pm): I am extremely proud of my record on infrastructure growth and delivery in my local state schools in the Ferny Grove electorate over the last 10 years. Not the least of this is the four school halls I have been able to deliver: at Mitchelton State High School, Oakleigh State School, Patricks Road State School and the double-sized hall at Ferny Grove State High School. Each of these pieces of infrastructure is providing incredible amenities for our local community. I want to commend the education department and the previous Labor education ministers for their input into the designs and building plans for those facilities and commend them on their incredible work.

I have one school which until recently—despite serving the community for over 100 years—never really had the critical mass of students to warrant the education department building a hall. However, only last year the department recommended the building of a sports and performing arts hall for Newmarket State School. Over the last 10 years Newmarket State School has experienced a dramatic increase in student numbers.

Since 2017, when the school was included in the redrawn boundaries of the Ferny Grove electorate, I have strongly advocated for the school. The result of this advocacy was eight new GLA classrooms, a specialty music room as well as a new staffroom and a specially designed courtyard for students. At the last election, in response to the department's decision that the school now warrants a hall, the Miles government committed to building Newmarket State School a hall if it was re-elected. Sadly, we know the result of that. Notwithstanding that, since 2015 the Labor government has funded and delivered 27 new schools to support our communities. We open schools; the LNP closes them. The Miles Labor government's 2024-25 budget provided record funding of \$20.9 billion to deliver schools the teachers and resources our young Queenslanders need.

While the Premier says 'when governments give up on integrity they give up on governing in the interests of Queenslanders' but rubberstamps the appointment of Mr Sosso, contradicting his values, I call upon the education minister to make sure he does not go down the same road as his Premier but upholds his integrity and provides this new hall. He is on record saying that he is not a teacher. Notwithstanding that, he needs to hold his integrity and make sure he delivers on his responsibility under his charter letter as the Minister for Education and delivers this new hall for Newmarket State School. It is a hall that was committed to by the department—a hall that this new LNP government should deliver fulsomely and thoroughly in the coming period.