




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba North Electorate, Education

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.26 pm): It is a fantastic time for education infrastructure in Toowoomba. We had the pleasure of welcoming John-Paul Langbroek, the Minister for Education, to Toowoomba to open the Toowoomba North State School hall. This is over \$8 million worth of investment in a project for which I have been fighting along with the P&C for some time. I would very much like to thank Dianne Dryden, the current P&C president, and Carlie Stockwell, the previous president. I would also like to mention the principal, Tim Loughland, who made us feel most welcome. There were a couple of hundred kids there who were very excited about having this fantastic facility. Former principal Kaarin Littleton came back. She worked really hard to get this project up and running. Richard Gibson, a former principal, put together the original structure that we built onto. It was a fantastic day for the kids of Toowoomba North State School.

During the visit we went out to Highfields State Secondary College. This was a full circle moment for the education minister and me because in a previous government this was one of the schools that we built. We paid for it; it was fully funded. We were told by the other side that we did not need it. It has been at capacity for a number of years now. It is a fantastic school that is doing a great job for the Highfields community. Unfortunately, during its development under Labor there were a few things missing. When stage 2 was constructed they did not put a hard court outside. We had the real pleasure of the principal, Scott Rowan, and the P&C president, Lisa Brogan, taking us for a walk around the school, showing us where the hard stand would go, talking about cricket nets, tennis, basketball and netball and how it would be really useful for the school to have that hard stand and to potentially share it with the community as well.

There is another project I would like to thank the minister for. It was one that we did not get a chance to go and visit. Over at Wilsonton State School they have had a lot of issues with people walking through the school and trouble around the school.

Mr Stevens: Fence it.

Mr WATTS: I thank the member; he is a genius. Nobody thought of that! It has actually been funded by the minister. We now have that funding in place. It has been a long road. The principal, Charlie Moncada, and the P&C president, Kylie Hopkin, have been working hard on this project for a long time. They have had to keep a lot of records for the education department to see that the funding was worthwhile. With a shopping centre, including a bottle shop, on one side and a whole bunch of housing on the other side, it is a greatly needed facility to secure the environment for the kids. I would like to thank the minister very much for that funding, as I am sure will all the residents of Wilsonton.