

Local schools officially 2020 ready

Students across Central Queensland will return to improved classrooms and facilities next week, as the Palaszczuk Government's continued investment in school infrastructure hits the ground in 2020.

More than \$90 million has been invested in major projects across the region that either have been completed in time for the start of the 2020 school year or are currently in the design or construction phase.

Education Minister Grace Grace and Assistant Education Minister & Keppel MP Brittany Lauga today toured a new \$5.6 million administration building and refurbished learning centre at Yeppoon State High School, delivered under the Government's 2020 Ready Program.

"The Palaszczuk Government is proud to be investing in the facilities students across Central Queensland need for a world-class education," Ms Grace said.

"Importantly, that means hundreds of construction jobs are continuing to flow through to local contractors.

"Of course, the brand new Calliope State High School will open its doors for the first time next week, one of eight new schools to open in 2020.

"At Toolooa State High a new \$5.3 million multi-storey learning centre has been delivered to cater for enrolment growth under the Palaszczuk Government's 2020 Ready program.

"And at North Rockhampton State High work is continuing to refurbish the home economics and classroom block, with work expected to be completed this year.

"I know all of these schools will use the new facilities very effectively to deliver a quality education for local students, both now and well into the future."

Ms Lauga said the upgrades at Yeppoon State High would allow for an extra five classrooms to be used throughout the year.

"These state-of-the-art facilities are fitted with modern furnishings and technology," Ms Lauga said.

"This will help prepare our students for pathways to further study and work as well as provide valuable support, wellbeing and meeting spaces.

"The project also created 17 new jobs in our community and supported 10 apprentices over the course of the project."

Yeppoon State High School Principal Ruth Miller said the new and upgraded facilities would benefit the whole school community well into the future.

"Our teachers will have additional space for co-teaching and professional development, with further meeting rooms for support services, staff and parents available in both buildings," Ms Miller said.

"This significant investment into the school's long-term future has renewed our commitment to providing first-class facilities to our diverse and growing student body."

Rockhampton MP Barry O'Rourke said the Palaszczuk Government was also investing \$97 million state-wide to reduce energy costs across state schools through solar and energy efficiency measures.

"Here in Rocky we have seen that investment make an impact at the Rockhampton North Special School where 95 solar panels were installed last month.

“Not only does this program reduce costs for our schools and help the environment, it also helps support local jobs and apprentices.”

Major infrastructure projects recently completed:

- Toolooa State High School – New multi-storey learning centre part of 2020 Ready program
- Yeppoon State High School - New multi-storey learning centre part of 2020 Ready program
- Calliope State High School – Stage one of brand-new high school
- The Caves State School – Refurbishment of Administration block
- Kin Kora State School – Enclosure of the outdoor learning area
- Clinton State School – Building expansion to allow for more classrooms

Major infrastructure projects in design or construction phase

- Parkhurst State School – New block with six classrooms and two specialist areas
- North Rockhampton State High School – Refurbishment of home economics and classroom block
- Glenmore State High School – Upgrade performing arts building
- Yeppoon State High School – Refurbishment of the tuckshop

Advancing Clean Energy Schools rollout

- Berserker Street State School – 96 solar panels installed
- Boyne Island State School – 96 solar panels installed
- Crescent Lagoon State School – 172 solar panels installed
- Gladstone South State School - 96 solar panels installed
- Gladstone State High School – 274 solar panels installed
- Gladstone West State School – 96 solar panels installed
- Kin Kora State School – 96 solar panels installed
- Lakes Creek State School – 96 solar panels installed
- Rockhampton North Special School – 95 solar panels installed
- Toolooa State High School – 298 solar panels installed