




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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**EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE:
REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (12.21 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Auditor-General's report on the maintenance of public schools. I was on the education committee back in 2012 and this was certainly a pressing matter which LNP members were very passionate about. When we were first elected and we saw the state of some of our schools, we were quite appalled. I wish to highlight some issues that my hardworking and passionate local principals were actually subjected to.

One of my first jobs after I was elected was to go to Pimpama State School. The principal took me on a tour of the school and he showed me paint peeling off the walls and holes in the doors. To put it simply, the school looked run down. The principal, Marius Marx, asked me how his 140-year-old school could compete with the brand-new schools just down the road. His school was run down and the parents questioned whether they wanted to send their children to a school in that state or whether they should go to Coomera Springs, which is only a short, five-minute drive down the road. His school was competing with these brand-new schools.

It is like the old saying, 'You can't judge a book by its cover,' but he was fighting a never-ending battle to prove that his teaching staff and his leadership in that school were as good as, if not better than, other schools in the district. It certainly was very heartbreaking for that man to show me around his school. Normally for a principal a school would be a symbol of pride, a symbol of prestige—this is his local community, this is what he has done—but having paint peeling off the walls was truly a disgrace and it was very upsetting for the students and the staff at that school.

That is why I was elated when the member for Surfers Paradise was the minister for education and he brought in this maintenance package. It made a huge difference to this school. The principal had coats of paint on the walls, those doors were fixed and the yard was cleaned up. That school now looks like a brand-new school and that is something that Marius Marx can be proud of because he well and truly spent that money wisely.

This is not just about Pimpama. At Gaven State School there was a toilet block that was out of commission after the ceiling fell in because water was leaking through the roof. They had it fixed but the people who fixed it did not do the job properly so the next time it rained it collapsed again. The principal there was very supportive of going out to market to save money for his school. He went out to market to support his local tradies, local businesses and local families in his area who are very supportive of him and his school. Therefore, it works two ways. That toilet block does not leak anymore; it is fixed.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: We can listen to the interjections from the member over there—

Mrs Smith: They hate small business.

Mr BOOTHMAN: They hate small business, and they hate my local businesses. Their idea of creating small business is getting a large business and making it small.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Ferny Grove and member for Stretton, I think I heard some interjections from you and I note that neither of you are in your seats.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection from those individuals opposite. I would like to state in my last 12 seconds that Cedar Creek State School needs a new tuckshop. After 140 years it still does not have a tuckshop, and I ask the minister to look into this matter as a priority.