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IPSWICH SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM \$90 MILLION MAINTENANCE BOOST

Eight Ipswich state schools will benefit from the Bligh Government's commitment to spend an extra \$90 million over two years on state school maintenance.

Member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, said \$45 million would be spent this financial year under the *State Schools of Tomorrow- external finishes upgrade program* in 895 schools throughout the state.

"This funding has been set aside for maintenance at state schools and Environmental and Outdoor Education Centres," Ms Nolan said.

"Blair, Churchill, Ipswich Central, Ipswich East and Maroon State Schools and Ipswich, Ipswich West and Claremont Special Schools will share a total budget of \$213,627 through this program.

"The work will range from external painting at Blair State School to replacing a shade cloth at Ipswich East State School.

"Research shows the environment in which students learn can have a significant impact on the learning outcomes of students.

"Local students deserve the very best."

Education and Training Minister Rod Welford said this funding would significantly enhance the State Government's schools maintenance program, bringing the total school maintenance budget for 2008-09 to \$125.3 million.

"This funding will fast-track works such as painting, and repairs and replacement of wall cladding, roofs, guttering, downpipes, windows, doors, posts, verandahs and staircases," Mr Welford said.

"This is the single biggest funding injection into the maintenance of Queensland schools in the state's history."

The \$5 million *State Schools of Tomorrow – employee housing maintenance program* will run in tandem with the school maintenance program.

The \$850 million five-year *State Schools of Tomorrow* initiative is about planning for the future of education in Queensland and undertaking major renewal, maintenance and modernisation of state schools.