



Rachel Nolan MP

Member for Ipswich



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AFTER A BIG YEAR, SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER

School is out tomorrow (December 11) for more than 382,000 Queensland state school students from Prep to Year 9 who begin six weeks of summer holidays.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan MP said 2009 had been a big year for local schools.

"I'd like to wish all our students, parents and teachers a safe and happy holiday," Ms Nolan said.

"I'd also like to thank teachers and school staff for the roles they played throughout this challenging and rewarding school year.

"There's been a strong focus from all our schools on boosting achievement in literacy and numeracy and I know many have seen improved results.

"The Bligh Government is also delivering on its commitment to creating modern teaching and learning environments.

"Through the \$850 million State Schools of Tomorrow program we're rebuilding our older schools to deliver quality learning spaces with the latest in technology.

"We're also building new schools in growth areas to address Queensland's huge population increases with four due to open at the start of Term 1.

Ms Nolan said there had been a range of projects at Ipswich schools during 2009 including:

- The new Amberley District State School will open for classes from term 1 2010. The school was relocated from Amberley due to the RAAF base Amberley expansion and is a state of the art school incorporating ecologically sustainable initiatives including rain water tanks, energy efficient lighting and waterless urinals. A photovoltaic solar panel and power monitors are also included.
- Bundamba State School where there is a new eight space teaching block; refurbishment of existing block F; the extension and internal refurbishment to the resource centre; new administration block and staff room.
- Silkstone State School where there are two new eight space teaching blocks; new outdoor learning areas; new library block; the refurbishment of blocks C and D with new internal walls and ceilings; and the upgrade of the main car park.
- Bremer State High School relocation plans

Education and Training Minister Geoff Wilson said 2010 looked set to be even more exciting than the last.

"We have a raft of new initiatives rolling out in our schools including Literacy and Numeracy coaches, Turnaround Teams and Regional Science Managers," he said.

"We've made major investments in boosting standards in Queensland schools, with \$72.3 million over three years for a new Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan.

"The first summer schools for Year 5, 6 and 7 students were held across the state during the September school holidays and more will be held in January.

"After such a busy and challenging year, I hope all students, teachers and parents have a relaxing break over the holidays before school starts again on Wednesday January 27, 2009.

Queensland state school term dates are available on the department's website at www.education.qld.gov.au or by telephoning the Department of Education and Training on 3237 1363.