

SCHOOLS — CAPITAL WORKS

738. Dr J. KRISHNAN to the Minister for Education:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to providing high-quality education facilities for students across Western Australia. Can the minister outline to the house how Western Australia's \$1.5 billion public education capital works is modernising schools across the community, including Rossmoyne Senior High School?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

I would very much like to answer the member for Riverton's question. He is an outstanding local member who champions high-quality education in his electorate. I was very happy to join his good self and the Premier on 19 September this year as we inspected the new works at Rossmoyne Senior High School. As we all know, that is an outstanding educational institution. It has a number of Beazley Medal winners, Rhodes scholars, Olympians, Paralympians and so forth. The member is the ideal local member to represent that excellent cerebral institution.

We inspected part of the \$39.1 million project that will deliver a range of new facilities for students including a two-storey classroom and library block. The new library will provide a modern space with integrated technology and the capacity to cater for a larger number of students than the current facility is able to accommodate. The upgrade will provide new science facilities and STEM labs, a new physical education change room, learning areas and staff areas that will run off the development. The project was designed by Bateman Architects and is being built by Crothers Construction, which I think has its headquarters in the seat of Geraldton. We expect total completion of the project in late 2025. It was great to be there with the member as we fulfilled another major election commitment.

I was also recently in the electorate of Baldvis with the member for Baldvis and the Premier again on 22 September where we opened the new state-of-the-art facilities at Ridge View Secondary College—a beautiful school. The completion of stage 2 of the \$29.4 million development doubles the capacity of the college to 1 450 students since opening in 2019, and it will accommodate the inaugural cohort of students when they commence year 12 in 2024. The state government has invested \$70 million into extensive redevelopment of the college through the great advocacy of the local member. The new facilities include performing arts and lecture theatres and a commercial kitchen with a student cafe. Some very nice afternoon refreshments were delivered to us by the hospitality students at the school. It also includes a fitness centre, a mechatronics area—the Premier and I knew little about this but we have been educated now!—engineering labs and specialist classrooms for drama, dance, music, visual arts and media. The new facilities add to existing general teaching buildings, digital technology laboratories, a gymnasium, technology facilities and science labs. Additional parking has also been provided that also includes electric vehicle charging stations, something that the Department of Education is very keen to roll out as we move forward in our new education institutions.

That is part of what we have been doing in our great education build. It is all part of the Cook Labor government investing \$1.5 billion to build and improve our physical education facilities. I am very proud to stand here as the Minister for Education in the Cook Labor government that is directly investing in the future of our state by investing in our students and building world-class education facilities.