

BALDIVIS PRIMARY SCHOOL — BALDIVIS CHILDREN’S FOREST

Statement by Member for Peel

MR P. PAPALIA (Peel) [12.58 pm]: On Monday this week, I took advantage of a very generous invitation from the principal of Baldvis Primary School, Mr John Worthy, to visit the school and the nearby Baldvis Children’s Forest. I was very fortunate that during my visit I was able to witness part of the school standards review process. The director of schools for the district, Mr Paul Meacock, had assessed the school’s performance and was meeting with Mr Worthy and his deputy principals, Mrs Deborah Maher and Mrs Carol Murphy, on completion. Baldvis primary students are achieving at or above expectations for a school of this nature. It did not surprise me because the school is well led, has a dedicated and talented team of teachers and is backed by a supportive and active P&C. Younger students have shown exceptional growth in numeracy as a result of strong early identification of students at risk, teacher programs, intervention and extra support provided through the Getting it Right numeracy strategy funded by government. Not surprisingly, the school also excels in the studies of society and environment; in particular, environmental studies that link to the school’s natural bush environment and the Baldvis Children’s Forest. After the standards review meeting, Mr Meacock accompanied Mr Worthy and me on a visit to the Baldvis Children’s Forest, where we were greeted by the wonderful former teacher of the year, Judith Hill, and treated to an informative tour by the school’s impressive student forest ambassadors, Connor Matthiessen, Stephanie Rayner, Tegan Tregonning, Ben Vaughan, Shelby Wilkinson and William Walton. It was a wonderful morning and I thank them very much.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm