Budget boost beats school building promise

The 2010 State Budget provides $271.3 million in capital works for Victorian government schools. Under the final tranche of the Victorian Schools Plan this term, $230.3 million has been allocated to build new schools and provide better school facilities across Victoria.

In 2006 the Victorian Government promised $1.9 billion in this term of government to rebuild, renovate or extend 500 schools through the Victorian Schools Plan.

This Budget goes beyond this promise with more than 550 schools funded for building projects.

The Victorian Government’s ambitious school infrastructure commitments for this term of government have been met. They include:

- Funding the construction of 20 new schools in growth areas including 11 new state-of-the-art schools, built through the Partnerships Victoria in Schools (PViS) Project
- Funding the construction of two new selective entry secondary schools in Berwick and Werribee
- Providing funding to secure the future of 40 small rural schools by replacing relocatables with permanent facilities
- Funding and replacement of three special schools and the modernisation of six others
- Funding 30 new tech wings in secondary schools
- Funding regeneration projects – including Broadmeadows, Bendigo, Western Heights, Altona, Dandenong, Colac, Echuca, Kyabram and Wodonga.

2010 State Budget highlights include:

$64.3 million for modernisation projects in 11 schools to build new libraries, gymnasiums, classrooms, multi-purpose halls, science rooms and ICT centres. The schools are:

- Ashburton Primary School
- Bendigo Senior Secondary College
- Coimadai Primary School
- Collingwood College
- Eltham East Primary School
- Essex Heights Primary School
- Noble Park Special Developmental School
- Northern School for Autism
- Parkmore Primary School
- Overport Primary School
- Wantirna Heights School.
$107 million for nine major regeneration projects benefiting 21 school communities. The projects are:

• Altona/Bayside Education Precinct
• Bendigo Education Plan
• Corio Norlane Regeneration
• Heidelberg Regeneration
• Keysborough/Springvale Regeneration
• Knox Regeneration
• Ouyen Regeneration
• Thomastown Regeneration
• Western Heights Regeneration.

$10.5 million to secure the future of six small rural schools by replacing relocatable facilities with new permanent buildings. The six are:

• Garfield Primary School
• Halls Gap Primary School
• Lockwood South Primary School
• Tawonga Primary School
• Wandin Yallock Primary School
• Woady Yaloak Primary School.

$4 million in additional funding to complete the rebuilding of the Glenroy Specialist School on a new site in Hilton Street in Glenroy.

$10.5 million for land acquisition, fire reinstatement and planning. This includes:

• $8 million to purchase land for new schools in growth areas, as well as land for Echuca West Primary School which is part of the regeneration of schools in Echuca
• $1.5 million to rebuild Toolamba Primary School – destroyed by fire
• $1 million to plan priority projects at four schools. They are Ballarat Secondary College East Campus (stage 2), Daylesford Secondary College (stage 2), McKinnon Secondary College (stage 2) and Thornbury Secondary College.


$41 million to improve the bushfire resistance of schools buildings in higher risk areas. Funding is provided for upgrading schools currently under construction through the Commonwealth’s Building the Education Revolution as well as retrofitting of government schools with fire doors and shutters and water deluge and fire sprinkler systems.

School building projects already funded as part of this Budget

In December 2009, the Brumby Government provided a further $104.1 million in funding for school building projects to maximise the benefits of the Commonwealth’s Building the Education Revolution.

This funding was provided by the State Government in addition to the BER funding so that schools could have even better buildings for today’s and tomorrow’s students.

This State Government funding complemented the Federal Government’s BER funding.

More funding for students with disabilities

Victorian government school students with disabilities will be further supported with:

• $1.7 million to establish the Victorian Deaf Education Institute and $7.5 million as operational funding, including staff
• $4.4 million to establish “satellite” classrooms for students with intellectual disabilities and inclusion support programs for students with autism – all to be located at mainstream schools.

Information Technology in Schools

In this 2010 State Budget, the Brumby Government also delivers the final $7 million tranche of its $28 million four-year commitment to provide new computers in schools.