RECORD $904 MILLION BOOST FOR SCHOOLS

A $904 million investment will fund an unprecedented school rebuilding program, support teachers and lift standards in Victorian classrooms.

The Education Minister, John Lenders, and Education Services Minister, Jacinta Allan, said the 2007-08 State Budget delivered a record boost to Victorian schools as part of the Bracks Government’s commitment to make education the number one priority.

“We promised to rebuild or modernise every school, invest in new technology for schools, and refurbish, replace or build 200 science rooms, and today we begin delivering,” Mr Lenders said.

“This Budget delivers $555 million to upgrade 131 Victorian schools and $38 million for five TAFE projects as the first instalment in the Victorian Schools Plan – a 10-year commitment to modernise or rebuild all Victorian schools.

“Our target for the first four years is to rebuild or modernise 500 schools, and TAFEs, at a cost of $1.9 billion, and this year we have delivered more than a quarter of this goal.

“This is the largest school building program in the State’s history and it will transform education infrastructure across the State.”

A further $349 million will be spent supporting teachers, promoting excellence and supporting non-government schools and community languages schools, including:

- $210 million for initiatives including 300 new teacher assistants, continuation of the Primary Welfare Officers program, 150 scholarships, maths and science grants, and supporting new ways of teaching and learning;
- $113 million to support needy non-government schools and students;
- $10 million in 2006-07 for urgent maintenance works;
- $11.1 million for Free Fruit Friday through Go For Your Life; and
- $5.4 million to support after hours community languages schools for ethnic communities.

Mr Lenders said the Bracks Government’s significant investment in education would see Victorian students receive a world class education, through quality teaching supported by state-of-the-art technology.
Mr Lenders said capital projects to be delivered in the 2007-08 State Budget under the Victorian Schools Plan included:

- **$258 million** for modernisation projects at 89 schools across Victoria including science rooms and tech wings (see attached list);
- **$93 million** to implement regeneration programs in Altona, Bendigo, Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Laverton, Wangaratta, Western Heights in Geelong and Colac benefiting 24 schools;
- **$50 million** for seven new schools serving Melbourne’s growing suburbs: Berwick South Primary School; Caroline Springs North P-9; Craigieburn North P-12; Laurimar Primary School (Stage 2); Pakenham Lakeside Primary School; Point Cook Secondary College (Stage 2); Wyndham Vale P-12;
- **$35 million** to buy land to provide schools in growth areas;
- **$27 million** for four replacement schools – Albert Park Secondary College, Grevillea Park Primary School (Ballarat), Monash Special Developmental School (Stage 2) and Skene St Special School (Stawell);
- **$14 million** to replace relocatable buildings at six rural schools with permanent facilities;
- **$10 million** to build a sports school as part of the redevelopment of Maribyrnong Secondary College; and
- **$1 million** for planning for two new select entry schools in North Melbourne and the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

“The modernisation program also delivers on the Bracks Government’s commitment to upgrade and rebuild science and tech rooms in secondary schools, with the first 63 science rooms and five tech wings funded,” Mr Lenders said.

The Minister for Education Services, Jacinta Allan, said teachers, students and parents would benefit from a **$61 million** investment linking them to a new statewide online system, the Ultranet. A further **$7 million** will be allocated to upgrade computers in Government schools and improve access.

“This cutting edge technology will provide a single, instant information point for parents, teachers and students,” Ms Allan said.

“Students will be able to log on to virtual classrooms and parents will be able to get immediate access to their child’s schooling information.

“Teachers will have classroom resources at their fingertips and the administrative burden on schools will be eased through this initiative.”

Mr Lenders said today’s announcement took the Bracks Government’s investment in education to $6.1 billion since 1999.

“The Bracks Government has lifted literacy and numeracy rates, reduced average class sizes, and employed an extra 7300 teachers and staff, and will continue to make education its number one priority,” he said.

Attachment: Further details of the Victorian Schools Plan.
VICTORIAN SCHOOLS PLAN   Stage 1

In the first year of The Victorian Schools Plan $555 million has been allocated to modernise 131 schools and $38.1 million for five TAFE colleges to provide state-of-the-art facilities. This 10-year plan will transform Victorian schools and it is starting with the largest single year investment in school infrastructure in Victoria’s history.

43 SCHOOLS MODERNISATIONS

| Ballarat Secondary College – East Campus | Inverleigh Primary School |
| Beaconsfield Upper Primary School | Karingal Park Secondary College |
| Beechworth Secondary College | Kent Park Primary School |
| Bentleigh Secondary College | Kinglake West Primary School |
| Bentleigh West Primary School | Kurnai College - Maryvale Campus |
| Black Hill Primary School | Macclesfield Primary School |
| Box Hill High School | Mill Park Primary School |
| Brauer Secondary College | Mount Waverley Primary School |
| Buckley Park Secondary College | New Gisborne Primary School |
| Caroline Springs P-9 (Brookside Campus) | North Melbourne Primary School |
| Carranballec P-9 College (Boardwalk Campus) | North Shore Primary School |
| Coburg Senior High | Oberon High School |
| Cranbourne West Primary School | Parkdale Secondary College |
| Drouin Secondary College | Point Lonsdale Primary School |
| East Doncaster Secondary College | Roberts McCubbin Primary School |
| Echuca College | Sale College (McAlister campus) |
| Elsternwick Primary School | Tate Street Primary School |
| Euroa Secondary College | Torquay P - 9 School |
| Geelong South Primary School | Upwey High School |
| Gladesville Primary School | Vermont Secondary College |
| Giendal Primary School | Werribee Secondary College |
| Greenhills Primary School |  |

BETTER SCHOOLS TODAY

Up to 40 additional schools requiring smaller modernisations and upgrades, costing between $300,000 and $500,000, will be identified for future works under the Better Schools Today program.

This will begin with a St Kilda/Prahran rejuvenation project to modernise five schools with significant historic value - South Yarra Primary School which opened in 1854, Stonnington Primary School (1877), Toorak Primary School (1890), St Kilda Primary School (1875) and Ripponlea Primary School (1922).

7 NEW SCHOOLS

$50 million has been allocated for five new schools and the second stage of two others to meet future demand in Melbourne’s growing suburbs:

| Berwick South Primary School | Pakenham Lakeside Primary School |
| Caroline Springs North P-9 | Point Cook Secondary College Stage 2 |
| Craigieburn North P-12 | Wyndham Vale P-12 (Manor Lakes) |
| Laurimar Primary School Stage 2 |  |

A further $35 million has been allocated to purchase land to build other new and replacement schools across Victoria.

SPECIALIST SCHOOLS

$10 million has been allocated to the Maribyrnong Secondary College to complete its transformation into a specialist sports school. $1 million is earmarked for planning work on new select entry schools.
4 REPLACEMENT SCHOOLS
Another $27 million has been allocated for four replacement school projects:

Albert Park Secondary College          Monash Special Developmental School, Stage 2
Grevillea Park Primary School (Stage 2), Ballarat          Skene Street School (Stawell) Special School

SECURING THE FUTURE OF 6 SMALL RURAL SCHOOLS
$14 million has been allocated this year to replace relocatable facilities at the following six schools with new, permanent buildings:

Drouin Primary School                   Mooroopna North Primary School
Harcourt Valley Primary School          Toora Primary School
Lethbridge Primary School               Trentham District Primary School

24 SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT FROM REGENERATION
$93 million has been allocated for the regeneration of schools in selected local communities which have developed plans for new curriculum and facilities to transform education options for Victorian students. This year 24 school communities will benefit from brand new facilities through major regeneration projects:

- **Altona/Bayside Regeneration** – Altona North Primary School, Altona Gate Primary School, Altona West Primary School, Altona College;
- **Bendigo Education Plan** – Kangaroo Flat Secondary College, Flora Hill Secondary College, Golden Square Secondary College;
- **Broadmeadows Regeneration** – Broadmeadows Secondary College, Broadmeadows Primary School, Erinbank Secondary College and Hillcrest Secondary College;
- **Dandenong Regeneration** – Dandenong High School, Cleeland Secondary College, Doveton Secondary College;
- **Laverton Regeneration** – Laverton Secondary College, Laverton Primary School, Laverton Plains Primary School;
- **Wangaratta Regeneration** – Wangaratta High School, Ovens College
- **Western Heights Regeneration** – Western Heights Secondary College, Geelong – amalgamation of three campuses; and
- **Colac Regeneration** – Colac High School and Colac College.

3 TAFE EXPANSIONS
$38 million has been allocated for the expansion of three TAFE colleges at Box Hill, Docklands and Geelong. This includes planning money for further expansions at Wodonga and Epping.

SCIENCE ROOMS AND TECH WINGS
Priority has been given to those schools upgrading science rooms and technical wings, to deliver excellence in the subjects vital to Victoria’s economy into the future. $3.3 million has been allocated for 16 new science rooms at six schools in 2007-08 with a further 47 science rooms being refurbished as part of modernisation, regeneration, new and replacement school projects.

Five technical wings will be refurbished through the modernisation and school replacement programs in 2007-08. Another $50 million has been committed over the next five years to build 30 new technical wings in secondary schools and modernise equipment in all others. The locations of the technical wings have yet to be identified.

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