23 November 2009

Work Begins on New School

The Chief Minister Paul Henderson and the Minister for Central Australia Karl Hampton announced today a $3.36 million contract to upgrade facilities at the Gillen campus of the new Centralian Middle School has been awarded.

Mr Henderson said Territory company Asbuild (NT) began work at the school today.

“The building work will usher in a new and exciting era of public education in Alice Springs,” he said.

“The school is made up of two distinct campuses that will cater for the learning needs of about 350 students from years 7 to 9, and provide room for strong growth into the future.

“Tenders for the upgrade of facilities at the Centralian Middle School Anzac Hill campus, including the development of the Youth Hub, have closed and are currently being assessed. That tender is expected to be awarded within days.

“The creation of the Centralian Middle School is an important part of my Government’s Youth Action Plan to keep kids in school and tackle youth crime and antisocial behaviour.”
Mr Henderson said the upgrade will support 432 jobs including 33 apprentices. The work will include:

- extra classrooms including a new food preparation classroom and a new multi-media design classroom
- a teachers pod
- a new canteen & external covered eating area
- an internet cafe
- a gym weights room
- tech studies upgrade, wood work, metal work, general DIY tinkering space and tech studies classroom

“Following the appointment of Therese Hicks as Principal three months ago, senior staff have been appointed and most teaching and support staffing positions have been filled.”

Mr Hampton said progress on the school is being made on a number of other fronts.

“The Project Team has been working with Student Leaders to develop a uniform for the new school that looks good, is easy to care for and provides choice for students.

“Uniforms with the school colours of blue, ochre and white, will be available from both campuses by mid January.

“The CMS student leader group has developed a school motto – Our Future: Our Responsibility: Our Choice and the school has a new logo.

“The new middle school – which is a key plank of this Government’s Alice Springs Youth Action Plan – will operate across two campuses and will mean better programs and infrastructure.

“The Youth Action Plan will make our community safer while supporting children and families – it has already delivered key outcomes such as a new Police Beat in the mall and our new No School No Service policy which more than 100 businesses have signed on for.”

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