MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

MAKING ROOM FOR EXPANDING SCHOOLS

14 May 2013

The Education Infrastructure Program is investing $75.324 million in school buildings, infrastructure and maintenance in the next year.

“As the economy grows, so too will school enrolments – we are putting money into school infrastructure so Territory schools can cope with expanding student numbers,” Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said.

The infrastructure investment is part of an overall Education investment of $846.6 million.

“In responding to growth and changes in student demographics Budget 2013 is allocating $500 000 to assist with master planning in growth areas.

“The Territory Government is investing wisely and responsibly so young Territorians can receive a high level of education, contribute to the development of our regions and enjoy a superior lifestyle.

“Education is at the heart of the community – with quality school facilities and pleasant surroundings families will share a great pride in their local school.

“To that end, we are improving Territory schools with a $43.2 million investment for repairs and maintenance.

“This includes repairs to older assets which will include major mechanical, plumbing and roofing projects. There will also be energy efficiency improvements in older buildings.

Mr Chandler said new works would go ahead at 22 schools across the Territory. These include:

- $2 million for transportable classrooms to meet growth in school rolls across Greater Darwin;
- $1 million for double transportable classroom space at Darwin Middle School for arts and manual arts space.
- $500 000 for upgrades to Block B at Darwin High School;
- $500 000 for additional, flexible learning space at Larrakeyah Primary School to support enrolment growth;
- $200 000 for Karama pre-school to fence the outdoor area and upgrade toilets
- $415 000 for a new transportable classroom for Milyakburra;
- $500 000 for a new administrative building at Angurugu School;
The rising costs associated with expanding school enrolments are also impacting on non-government schools so extra funding of $2.53 million has been allocated in the total non-government school funding of $161.464 million.

“We are committed to growing the economy so we must invest in the education of all school children who will be carrying the Territory forward.”

Mr Chandler said the Territory Government was providing $200 000 in additional funding to support the Commonwealth National Solar Schools Program.

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