MEDIA RELEASE

Michael Gunner
TERRITORY LABOR LEADER

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LEADING THE 21st CENTURY TECHNOLOGY FOCUS THROUGH EDUCATION INVESTMENT

Labor Leader Michael Gunner has announced that a Labor Government will invest almost $40 million over five years to develop the Darwin Middle and High Schools as the leading science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) schools.

Mr Gunner said Labor would equip the schools to provide nation leading learning in the rapidly evolving new technologies that would see students graduating highly skilled and ready to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

“A Labor Government will work with the school community to make this campus the focus of the Territory’s efforts to drive advanced STEAM learning across the Territory through the onsite Northern Territory School of Distance Education (NTSDE), and place the school at the forefront of a Labor Government’s push into international education,” Mr Gunner said.

“The Darwin Middle and High School campus have more than 2000 students from Darwin and Palmerston and easily 200 staff. It has outgrown its capacity and now needs proper investment to give students the best possible chance of learning.

“Labor wants to see the students at this school graduating with advanced skills preparing them to tackle the 21st century with all of its challenges, ready for further education and skilled work as future leaders of our industry and our community,” Michael Gunner said.

Darwin High School Chair and leading Territory architect, Hully Liveris, joined Opposition Leader Michael Gunner to welcome today’s announcement.

“The master plan is well overdue and urgently needed to address future education needs,” Mr Liveris said.

“The world of education, information and technology and societal expectations has moved significantly in multiple of directions in recent years and consequently the infrastructure needs to be adapted in order to cope with, reflect and predict these extraordinary changes.

“This master plan allows for the first time a whole of site assessment to enable the considered evolution and development of the Bullocky Point Education Precinct as a key focal point for education in the Top End of Australia as well as Asia.

“The master plan adopts a collegiate approach which encourages the interaction of the faculties grouped around and along tropical breezeways, outdoors rooms, and
courtyards which sensitively consider this unique peninsular headland setting,” Mr Liveris said.

Territory Labor’s plans will see:

1. $15 million to modernise Blocks A and B with a new central library and Fabrication Laboratory able to teach and train students in cutting edge technology, engineering, robotics and science. This would be Stage One.

2. $12 million to the Darwin Middle School for a multipurpose hall for the school. This would be Stage Two.

3. Stage 3 with $12 million for student accommodation provided on site to expand the school’s international reach and to provide accommodation for bush students undertaking NTSDE programs.

This will provide an important facility to progress both the Labor Government’s remote education plans as well as our international education plans.

“This investment is part of Labor’s plans to grow jobs now and into the future,” Mr Gunner said.

“It will create construction industry jobs building this school. We will train our young people for future smart jobs when our employment looks very different from today and we will launch a real plan for growing international education, which all experts agree is an important direction for the future of our economy.

“Most importantly this investment will prepare our students for more up to date learning, better outcomes and a better future,” Michael Gunner said.

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