Eva Lawler
Minister for Education

**Territory Students to Benefit from $18 Million School Upgrade: Budget 17**

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Future scientists, doctors, engineers, artists and mathematicians will benefit from modern new classrooms, a hands-on workshop and state-of-the-art laboratories to be built at Darwin High School with $18 million from Budget 17, to kick off an overall $42 million development at the Bullocky Point Education Precinct.

The Minister for Education Eva Lawler today announced the funding will transform Darwin High School, where some buildings are over fifty years old, to provide students with a school environment to project them into rewarding future careers.

“Investing in children, youth and their education, is an investment in their future and the Territory’s future,” Ms Lawler said.

"The Territory Labor Government is restoring trust by fulfilling our election commitment to develop the Bullocky Point Education Precinct and create jobs for Territorians.

“Children are at the centre of our decision making, because we recognise giving every child the best start in life and a good education is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do.

“It is important we have quality learning environments that meet the needs of students now and into the future.”

The upgrade project will benefit urban students, students from remote communities enrolled in the NT School of Distance Education (located at the Bullocky Point Education Precinct), and contribute to economic development of the Territory.

“The design and construction will create jobs, business opportunities and contribute to a sustainable economy for all Territorians,” Ms Lawler said.

The development will provide more flexible learning spaces and a new laboratory which will enhance students learning and develop skills for future employment in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) areas.

Principal of Darwin High School Trevor Read said he was delighted the school would be redeveloped, especially as some areas were in desperate need of refurbishment.
“Investing in Darwin High as a STEAM hub will enable teachers to tailor their programs to meet student needs,” Mr Read said.

“Darwin High School already delivers a STEAM program to Year 10 and 12 students and this facility will enable these programs to grow, particularly in the areas of robotics, electronics and the sciences.”

The election commitment of $15 million has been increased by $3 million in Budget 17, to fund the installation of a new energy efficient chiller enclosure, which will lead to a more sustainable and cost effective mechanical system across the whole precinct.

Planning for stage one is underway, with the project moving into design phase through Term 3, 2017 and construction expected to be underway in early 2018.

The development of the Bulloky Point Education Precinct includes three projects over a five year plan, to support the schools with the delivery of STEAM subjects, courses and activities, including education for distance education and also international students.

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