Education Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced the successful tenderer for the $5.5 million Borroloola Community Education Centre project – the Wild Geese Building and Maintenance Group.

Ms Scrymgour said the project would start in about two weeks and include the replacement of the existing primary school building with four new classrooms.

The project also includes building an under cover sports and assembly area, new administration, storage and toilet facilities and new home economics and science areas for secondary students.

“We recognise more work needs to be done to address Indigenous disadvantage in education – providing more classrooms and teachers is part of this Government’s commitment,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“We are also upgrading facilities, under our Closing the Gap package, signing partnership agreements with communities to improve attendance and teaching accelerated literacy programs.

“In addition, we are working with the Commonwealth to address Indigenous disadvantage in education – including the recruitment this year of the first 50 of an extra 200 teachers for remote schools.”

Ms Scrymgour said Wild Geese Building and Maintenance Group would be employing and training 10 Indigenous trainees for this project.

“This is consistent with our policy of improving Indigenous training, employment and economic opportunities under the Closing the Gap package, she said.

Ms Scrymgour said the project included $200,000 under the Government’s Closing the Gap package for new facilities for counselling at the school.

“Counsellors are an important part of the $70 million Closing the Gap package to address some of the issues students may have that impact on their attendance or performance at school,” she said.

“Better facilities and improved attendance are central to improving educational outcomes.”

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