Upgrades for Schools Across the Territory

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today visited Parap Primary to inspect plans for a major infrastructure upgrade at the school.

Mr Henderson said with more than 400 students, the school was eligible for up to $3.2 million in funding from the Rudd’s Government’s $42 billion economic stimulus package.

“Parap has already developed detailed plans for an assembly hall and other infrastructure and they could decide to submit this proposal for funding,” Mr Henderson said.

“Under the package every primary school in the Territory will receive a major infrastructure upgrade, such as an assembly hall or library, with a value up to $3 million, and up to $200,000 for a small scale infrastructure or refurbishment.

“The Territory Government fully supports the package. Terry Millis, Nigel Scullion and their Coalition colleagues in Canberra should immediately support the package.

“The CLP Opposition is blocking support for Territory jobs, better school infrastructure, more housing, better roads and cash bonuses of $950 for Territorians.”

Member for Fannie Bay, Michael Gunner, said the Territory Government had already supported work on stage 1 and 2 upgrades at the school.

“We’ve also been working with the passionate school community on Stage 3 – and that’s why plans have already been developed.”

The Territory is set to benefit from an estimated $146 million for building works in schools, which will create an estimated 650 direct and indirect jobs.

“The funding comes on top of the NT Government’s record funding commitment of $246 million for school infrastructure – bringing total school funding to more than $392 million.”

Under the stimulus package, every primary school will have a large scale infrastructure project, such as a library or hall, built or upgraded. There will also be 500 new science labs and language centres across Australia and up to $200,000 for every school for upgrades and maintenance.

The Territory will also benefit from the other measures in the package including road maintenance, energy efficiency for houses, public and defence housing and one-off bonus payments for Territorians.

The Territory Government’s Operation Stimulus to Implement the Package includes:

Fresh Ideas, Real Results
• The Development Consent Authority to meet every fortnight instead of every month (recruitment of five more staff to start immediately);
• A Summit of construction industry leaders will be held on Sunday February 15 to brief industry and get all ideas on the table;
• Dedicated Stimulus Action Squads will be set up in Government Departments to get these projects up-and-running as fast as possible;
• We'll make it even easier for local companies to get local projects – we lead the country but will strive to become even better. Advertisements seeking expressions of interest from industry will be placed within two weeks; and
• A short and sharp review of procurement to streamline development processes and cut red tape – including raising the threshold before you need to go to tender and getting contractors involved earlier in the processes.

“We will also meet all our existing commitments, including our record infrastructure spend of $870 million this year, to maintain economic activity in the Territory.”

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