10 July 2009

$9 million Boost for Tennant Schools

Chief Minister and Education Minister Paul Henderson said today Tennant Creek schools were set to benefit from almost $9 million in Territory and Australian Government investment.

Speaking with Federal Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon, at the Department of Education and Training exhibit at the Tennant Creek show, Mr Henderson said education was one of the key priorities of his Government.

“The funding to improve facilities and infrastructure at both the Primary and High Schools will help students, teachers and school communities get better educational outcomes,” Mr Henderson said.

“We are delivering Territory Government funding for Tennant schools and also delivering Australian Government stimulus projects to boost the local economy and our school infrastructure.

“Having top class facilities leads to a better learning environment, helps teachers provide quality and more varied tuition and leads to better results.”

Mr Snowdon said the Federal Government was delivering close to $6 million in long overdue education infrastructure to Tennant Creek, with not only a Trade Training Centre for the High School but a Science Centre as well.

“Together, the Rudd and Territory Governments are investing in our future, and giving our kids the best possible facilities in which to grow and learn within their own community,” Mr Snowdon said.

Member for Barkly, Gerry McCarthy, said the infrastructure program would provide a fantastic boost for the region.

“It’s great for our kids, great for education and will also provide a multi-million boost to the local economy,” Mr McCarthy said.
Total $8.975 million investment in Tennant Creek schools

**Northern Territory Government: $3 million**
**Australian Government: $5.975 million**

**Tennant Creek High School, total infrastructure spend: $6.325 million**

$1.97 million under the Australian Government’s Building the Education Revolution (BER) for a science centre.

Students who have wanted to study physics, chemistry and biology at senior levels have had to do so by distance education, and necessarily travel 1000km each way to Darwin for practical sessions. The Territory Government’s Department of Education and Training is also investigating options for this to be a **sports science centre** to support the Clontarf program.

$3 million Northern Territory Government funding to construct an enclosed general purpose assembly and sports facility.

A design consultant has been appointed and discussions with the school and school council have commenced. Preliminary design and quantity surveyor estimates are being established. This commitment was an election promise.

$1.2 million in March 2009 under the Australian Government’s Trade Training Centres in Schools Program.

This funding will see Tennant Creek High School become a Trade Training Centre allowing students to complete a trade certificate at the same time as achieving their Northern Territory Certificate of Education. The school will develop trades with the emphasis on increasing skilled workers within the construction/property services, manufacturing and service skills industries.

$125,000 under the Australian Government’s National School Pride program. The school will engage contractors to install a quadrangle shade provision, disable access and upgrade the car park. They will also recarpet the library and resource centre.

**Tennant Creek Primary School, funding of $2.65 million to upgrade infrastructure**

There are two projects in for Tennant Creek Primary School with funding provided by the Australian Government via the Building the Revolution (BER) Stimulus Package.

$150 000 under the Australian Government’s National School Pride program for a perimeter fence.
$2.5 million under the Australian Government’s Primary Schools for the 21st Century for a multi-purpose hall.

The Territory Government’s Department of Planning and Infrastructure will manage the major project to upgrade the assembly hall and enclose with a tempered air solution for all year round use.

*Media Contact Geoff Fraser 0407 360 256*