 MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

SECURING PALMERSTON’S EDUCATION FUTURE

6 April 2014

Two new government schools have been earmarked for Palmerston as part of the Country Liberals Government’s plan to secure the education future for the Territory’s fastest growing region.

The 2014 Budget includes $57 million for a dedicated special school in Bellamack and a new school in Zuccoli.

The school in Bellamack will cater for 140 pre-school to Year 9 students at a cost of $20 million.

Over two stages, a $37 million pre-school and primary school will be built in the new suburb of Zuccoli which will cater for the rapidly expanding Palmerston East area.

Minister for Education, Peter Chandler, said work will begin on the special school first on an already serviced site in Bellamack.

"Existing facilities for students with special needs at Nemarluk and the Pandanus Centre at Woodroffe Primary School are at capacity leaving students from Palmerston and the Rural Area to travel Darwin for school," Mr Chandler said.

"The school is expected to include a covered drop-off area for buses and parents, specialised indoor and outdoor learning areas designed for students with special needs and also a hydrotherapy pool to aide students with physical disabilities.

"However this school will need to meet the community's needs for decades to come, so throughout the planning and design process there will be constant collaboration with the broader community."

Zuccoli School will be built in two stages as it will grow with the surrounding community.

"Stage one will see the construction of facilities for students in pre-school to Year 2, followed by stage two that will cater for the upper primary years," Mr Chandler said.

"One of my first acts as Education Minister was to audit the infrastructure needs of the Greater Darwin area and the report, completed by John Glasby, identified Palmerston as the centre of growth and noted its capacity to also service the nearby Rural Area.

"The Country Liberals Government has a plan for Palmerston including ongoing investment in education to not only keep up with growth, but to keep providing a quality education no matter where you live."

Planning and design work will begin on the Palmerston Special School in July this year with construction to commence in 2015. Stage one of Zuccoli School will commence in the 2016-17 financial year, with stage two continuing the following year.

Media Contact: Jarrad Schwark 0437 914 736 or 8928 6617