

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

\$500 million for schools to prepare children for jobs of tomorrow

The 2016-17 State Budget includes one of our largest single investments in South Australian schools, to ensure children are given every opportunity to claim the jobs of the future in advanced manufacturing and defence.

The Government is committing a package of \$500 million to upgrade and build new facilities in both public and non-government schools.

The first part of the package is a \$250 million investment over three years to build and upgrade science, technology, engineering and mathematics labs at 139 public schools across metropolitan and regional SA.

The public school upgrades will deliver contemporary science, technology, engineering and maths programs, giving children the skills needed to one day forge a career in key industries, and secure work on major projects such as the future submarine program.

Work on the first schools is set to begin by the end of the year and ramp up next year, generating jobs for local businesses and trades people and significantly stimulating the SA economy.

The Budget also provides a new low-interest loan facility of \$250 million over five years for the state's non-government schools to modernise their facilities.

The loan facility will be provided to non-government schools that wish to invest in infrastructure and facility upgrades that lead to better educational and care outcomes.

The loans will be offered at the Government borrowing rate and will be administered by the South Australian Financing Authority.

Background:

All students deserve modern classrooms and learning environments so they can reach their full potential.

Since 2002 we have invested more than \$2.2 billion in school and preschool infrastructure.



The full list of 77 primary schools, 44 high schools and 18 R-12 schools can be found online at www.decd.sa.gov.au/stemlabs

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

It is the children and students in school today that will be working on the high-tech defence build that South Australia will undertake across the next 50 years.

Engineering, welders, designers, computer technicians; these are the jobs we will need in a more modern economy.

Our growing defence industry is expected to generate thousands of jobs, with the Offshore Patrol Vessels program, Future Frigates and submarine project providing decades of work between them.

As South Australia transforms, so should our skillset. And that starts in our schools.

We want South Australians to stay and work in South Australia, and that means investing in the jobs of tomorrow, today.

We want to ensure that our children are prepared for those jobs which is why we are spending \$250 million on advanced science and technology labs in public schools.

This package is the most substantial investment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) undertaken in South Australia.

Quotes attributable to Education Minister Susan Close

We are focusing on ensuring that our schools have advanced science and technology facilities because we know that STEM skills will figure large in our children's futures.

Research shows that 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations are technology-related, and in this changing state economy our kids will need a new set of skills with a strong STEM focus to be able to claim those jobs.

I am excited to be able to offer more students access to modern facilities to learn and participate in these really fun and innovative subject areas.

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