



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Premier of Victoria

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STATE BUDGET DELIVERS \$4 MILLION FOR MOUNT CLEAR MATHS AND SCIENCE SPECIALIST CENTRE

The Premier John Brumby today announced \$4 million to create a state-of-the-art maths and science specialist centre in Ballarat as part of a State Budget \$88.3 million investment to rebuild, modernise and renovate schools across regional Victoria and deliver jobs in local communities.

In Ballarat today, Mr Brumby said the Victorian Government's 2009 State Budget would build a new specialist maths and science learning centre at Mount Clear Secondary College to provide students and teachers across the region with access to top quality resources for a 21st Century education.

"Our Government is backing regional Victoria with more than \$1.7 billion to deliver the infrastructure and services needed to deliver jobs now and ensure our regions continue to grow and thrive," Mr Brumby said.

"Education is our number one priority and we know that good schools are crucial to the liveability of regional and rural Victoria. That's why we are taking action to ensure children and young people get the best start in life and access to a top-quality education no matter where they live.

"This year's State Budget commits a record \$88.3 million in capital funding to rebuild, modernise and renovate more than 80 schools across regional and rural Victoria – this is about providing families in country communities with great schools for their children and creating construction jobs in local communities during tough global times."

The Mount Clear maths and science specialist centre will involve construction of a new centre at Mount Clear Secondary College for the use by students across the Ballarat region.

"The Mount Clear Secondary College science and maths centre will become as highly regarded and well-known as the three existing centres – the Strathmore Space Science Centre, the Gene Technology Centre at University High and Ecolinc, the science and technology innovations centre at Bacchus Marsh," Mr Brumby said.

"The Mount Clear centre will specialise in renewable energies and will fast become a centre of excellence for teaching in this field."

Member for Ballarat East Geoff Howard welcomed the announcement.

"The establishment of this new maths and science centre at Ballarat is great news for the local community," Mr Howard said,

"This knowledge will then be shared across the state as the centre becomes a resource for all students who either participate in programs at the centre or take advantage of the many online teaching and learning resources that will be developed."

The 2009 State Budget committed funding to build three new science and maths specialist centres at Ballarat, Geelong and North Melbourne as part of a \$402 million investment in education.

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Education Minister Bronwyn Pike said the three new centres would bring to six the number of specialist maths and science centres in Victoria.

“These centres relate science to real life and encouraged students to learn more about how science was relevant to everyday life,” Ms Pike said.

“They are also a pivotal plank in ensuring young people get a 21st century education so they are equipped with the skills to get 21st century jobs.

“Since 1999 we have invested over \$870 million in country schools and these latest investments are a win-win for Victorian families during tough times – they stimulate the economy and jobs now, building better schools for the future.

“We are undertaking the biggest school rebuilding program in the state’s history, which is providing great schools for our children, supporting teachers in the classroom with maths, science and Ultranet coaches in targeted schools and professional teacher support and development to deliver better results for students.”