$150 million in extra school improvement projects announced

The NSW Government has announced 790 additional school improvement projects to be undertaken over the next two years which is on top of the Rudd Government’s education infrastructure investment in the Commonwealth’s stimulus package.

The NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, said these works are part of the $150 million NSW Government Principals Priority Building Program and schools across NSW will benefit.

“The Rees Government has been listening to principals about what needs to be fixed to resolve maintenance issues once and for all,” Ms Firth added.

“This program is about providing security fences and fixing toilets, roofs, sewer systems and stormwater drains – the minor works problems that cause a major inconvenience to schools,” the Minister said.

“We asked all NSW public school principals to nominate the top minor works projects they would like done at their schools.

“The Principal’s Priority Building Program is about reducing future maintenance spending, and that’s how the funding has been distributed,” Ms Firth said.

The projects to be funded under the program across NSW public schools include:

- 36 new security fences at a cost of $7.5 million;
- 266 toilet upgrade projects at a cost of $52.5 million;
- 193 roofing repair projects at a cost of $43.7 million; and
- 301 repairs to sewers and stormwater drains at a cost of $42.8 million.

“Over the Christmas break alone we spent $40 million on important painting, carpeting and other improvement works,” she said.

Ms Firth said the $150 million for the Principals Priority Building Program was set aside in November’s mini-budget. The funding was allocated in addition to the $878 million already being spent on upgrading and building new school facilities in the 2008/09 NSW Budget.

These investments by the Rees Government are now to be complemented by the mammoth $14.7 billion investment in education infrastructure announced by the Rudd Government this week.

“Funding from the State and Federal Labor Governments will see an unprecedented program of maintenance and upgrade works in schools across NSW over the next two years,” she added.

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