



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

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Builders return to primary school

Koondoola Primary School has welcomed a team of builders on campus this term, which will transform the school as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER).

The BER infrastructure program is the largest ever undertaken in Western Australian public schools.

Koondoola Primary School Principal Rod Steere said site works began at the school just before school holidays and students returned last week to see two concrete pads and a large amount of steel framework already in place.

The school is receiving a \$750,000 library and a \$1.7million enclosed undercover area complete with canteen, music room and art room.

“Our school is 30 years old with a cluster design that doesn’t easily lend itself to many activities outside normal classroom teaching, so the new facilities will be a tremendous boost for our students and teachers,” Mr Steere said.

“With a computer laboratory and audiovisual room, our existing library has too many roles to be effective in any one area.

“Our new state-of-the-art library will be set up as a dedicated information and learning centre rather than a general purpose centre, while the old library will be set up to include much-needed small teaching areas, meeting rooms and interview rooms.”

The school does not have dedicated art and music rooms, and its existing undercover area is open to the elements.

Music classes currently take place in a small, converted classroom and art takes place in students’ normal classes or in a wet area.

“The new music and art rooms will be far enough away from other classrooms to allow the teachers and students to do all kinds of activities without disturbing the class next door, which is something they have never been able to do before,” Mr Steere said.

“There will be more storage and even a kiln to fire students’ clay projects, which will allow much more variety in our students’ learning.

“This is the first opportunity Koondoola Primary School has had for purpose-built specialist facilities, so it is very exciting.”

Construction of a new \$610,000 library and work to enclose the school’s undercover area has also started at Waddington Primary School in Koondoola.

In WA public primary schools, \$1.12 billion is being spent on large scale infrastructure, such as libraries, early childhood centres, classrooms and covered assembly areas, as part of the Primary Schools for the 21st Century (P21) element of BER.

BER is in turn part of the Australian Government's Nation Building – Economic Stimulus Plan.

The WA Government will spend an additional \$300 million to build 14 new public schools over the next six years and an extra \$50 million on a four-year public school capital improvements program.

(ENDS)

Note: photographs and interviews available on request.

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