

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education



Sunday, 13 September 2020

WODONGA TO SHARE IN STATEWIDE TAFE UPGRADE BLITZ

Wodonga TAFE will receive more than \$2.7 million to modernise and upgrade learning spaces and facilities at its campuses, as part of a funding package announced by the Victorian Government.

Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney today announced every TAFE in Victoria will share in \$55 million to carry out essential upgrades to learning facilities and amenities, as well as to re-fit and modernise existing learning spaces to adapt them to deliver more courses.

The Driver Education Centre of Australia's (DECA) Shepparton Campus, a division of Wodonga TAFE will get more than \$1.8 million for roof and classroom works to its main administration and learning centre building, including new student breakout areas on its top and bottom floors. Another \$365,000 will be invested for road and carpark resurfacing at the site.

Wodonga TAFE's Logic Civil Works and Forklift Training Facility in Barnawartha North will receive \$500,000 for planning works towards a planned upgrade to create a dedicated 1,800 square metre training site which will include indoor and outdoor learning areas and classrooms.

All Victorian TAFEs will share in the funding through the *TAFE Asset Maintenance Fund*, with projects to be delivered in Geelong, Gippsland, Mildura, Warrnambool, Shepparton, Seymour and metropolitan Melbourne.

This investment is on top of an additional \$48.8 million available for asset maintenance through the *Stronger TAFE fund*.

The \$55 million investment announced today is part of the \$1.81 billion announced by the Government for critical education infrastructure projects for schools and early childhood to help drive the state's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Government is giving Victorians the skills the state needs to respond to the pandemic and prepare for recovery. An extra 18,000 Victorians will be able to train at TAFEs and Learn Locals under a \$163 million package of new measures, which includes an expansion of Government's signature Free TAFE program to prepare the state's economic recovery from the Coronavirus crisis.

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney

"We've rebuilt TAFE and investing to make it even better, because giving Victorians the skills and training they need will be critical to our economic recovery."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"This investment will ensure that students at Wodonga TAFE campuses continue to receive the very best in training to get them job ready and into paid work."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"These projects will deliver better facilities for students and staff, and support jobs and local businesses through the pandemic."

Media contact: Harry Adam 0448 505 876 | harry.adam@minstaff.vic.gov.au