

# Media Release

**The Hon James Merlino MP**  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Mental Health



Thursday, 11 February 2021

## TURNING THE SOD AT THE NEW SAN REMO CAMPUS

Students on the Bass Coast are one step closer to getting the modern learning facilities they deserve, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Education James Merlino and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale today turned the first sod on the new junior campus of Wonthaggi Secondary College in San Remo, marking the start of construction.

When complete, the school will include a range of world-class facilities, including an administration building and library, modern classrooms, separate specialist and innovation buildings, a competition-grade gym, spaces to cater for food technology, music and performing arts, a football oval, and outdoor sports courts.

The new campus will be located on Potters Hill Road in San Remo with SJ Higgins appointed as the builder. The campus will open in 2022 and adds to the two existing campuses, including the new McBride Senior Campus that opened in 2020.

Community consultation to rename Wonthaggi Secondary College also opened today, with members of the public able to have their say on a new name that reflects the school's unique identity, inspires local pride, and makes the school easily locatable across its three campuses.

Discussions with the local community will also continue throughout the year on the names of the three campuses.

In the 2019-20 State Budget, this school shared in \$624.8 million allocated for new schools to plan and build the new campus at San Remo. In 2020, the school received a further \$5 million in funding. In the 2020-21 State Budget, the school received at least \$25.76 million.

In the past five years, the Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$9 billion in more than 1,600 school upgrades – creating more than 10,000 construction jobs – and is now ahead of schedule its commitment to open 100 new schools by 2026.

Members of the local community are invited to have their say on the school's new name over the next three weeks by visiting the Engage Victoria website: [engage.vic.gov.au/school-naming-wonthaggi-secondary-college](https://engage.vic.gov.au/school-naming-wonthaggi-secondary-college)

### Quote attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

*"We said we would build a junior secondary campus of this school so students right across Phillip Island and the Bass Coast could have a school that is close to home and that is exactly what we will deliver."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale

*"Today marks the next step in delivering on our commitment to build a new school in the Bass Coast, delivering the modern learning facilities students deserve."*