

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education



Tuesday, 2 March 2021

BUILDER ANNOUNCED FOR MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR TAFE GIPPSLAND UPGRADE

Local company Becon Constructions has been awarded the contract to build the new facility at TAFE Gippsland's Warragul campus, funded by the Andrews Labor Government.

The \$6.25 million dollar project will feature fit-for-purpose facilities including a new campus entrance, training spaces and refurbished staff accommodation.

It will help deliver high-quality education to students in increasingly popular courses including Nursing and Early Childhood Education to create a pipeline of skilled workers for the local industry.

Becon Constructions employs 20 Gippsland locals and works are expected to finish in late 2021.

The project was funded as part of the Labor Government's \$55 million TAFE Asset Maintenance Program to build critical educational infrastructure that will help contribute to the state's economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Since 2015, the Labor Government has invested more than \$1.7 billion to rebuild TAFE, refurbish campuses, launch *Free TAFE for Priority Courses* and support disadvantaged students into training and jobs.

In the *Victorian Budget 2020/21*, we invested a record \$1 billion to make sure the state has the training and skills system it needs to emerge stronger from the coronavirus pandemic.

Work has already begun on a number of reforms to support those disproportionately affected by the pandemic, create pathways for apprentices and trainees to Victoria's Big Build projects, provide rapid retraining for in-demand jobs and grow the workforce for new and innovative sectors, including clean energy programs.

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

"This project is part of our record investment in TAFE – ensuring Victoria has a strong skills and training sector and bolstering the economy as the state emerges from the coronavirus pandemic."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"This is critical educational infrastructure that will give great opportunities to local students and create highly skilled workers to support local industries."

Quote attributable to TAFE Gippsland CEO Grant Radford

"This funding will ensure TAFE Gippsland students have the best possible learning experience and the skills they need to make them more job-ready and prepared for long and meaningful careers."