

# Media Release

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



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Thursday, 9 May 2019

## NEW STEM FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS IN WEST GIPPSLAND

Students in West Gippsland studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects are now benefitting from new facilities funded by the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Education James Merlino today visited Drouin Secondary College for a tour of the school's \$4.5 million new facilities and to see the recently completed \$5.8 million STEM Centre at nearby Warragul Regional College.

At Warragul Regional College, brand-new facilities designed by GHD Woodhead and built by 2Construct have delivered a new STEM hub, incorporating science, food tech, classrooms, as well as a senior student study lounge, breakout and collaboration areas.

At Drouin Secondary College, a series of brand-new facilities designed by Law Architects and built by Mackie Group have also been constructed, with a new Learning Centre incorporating seven classrooms, a breakout space, study lounge, a new canteen facility, as well as inside and outside seating areas.

New and modern school buildings contribute to school pride for students, parents and the wider community, building their engagement with education.

Investment in STEM education and purpose-built facilities will ensure students are ready for the changing demands of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy.

The Labor Government has invested \$3.8 billion to deliver more than 1,300 school upgrades, supporting almost 5,000 construction jobs for Victorians.

Under the Labor Government's school building boom, 100 new schools will open over the next eight years – ensuring every child has a great local school and a great start in life.

This building boom will continue over the coming years, with the Government having appointed builders to start delivering 11 schools across the state that will open in 2020.

The Labor Government is building the Education State to ensure that every student can access a great local school and get a great education.

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino**

*"We're building better schools so local students have the facilities and classrooms they need to thrive in our rapidly changing and growing economy."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing**

*"Upgrading Warragul Regional College and Drouin Secondary College will give more students, staff and teachers across West Gippsland the high-quality classrooms and facilities they deserve."*

**Media Contact:** Laura Soderlind 0427 941 370 | [Laura.soderlind@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:Laura.soderlind@minstaff.vic.gov.au)