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NATION BUILDING – ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN

PROGRESS REPORT

21 June 2009

Over 5000 school construction and upgrade projects are currently underway across the country as the Economic Stimulus Plan continues to roll out.

State and Territory Governments, as well as Catholic and Independent Schools are looking for builders, tradespeople and small businesses to help deliver the largest school modernisation program in Australia's history. Businesses that are interested in work should visit the 'Work Opportunities' section of the Stimulus website for more information.

We have already seen housing and community infrastructure projects completed that have supported jobs, and are now providing housing and infrastructure for local communities.

From 1st July, the Stimulus Plan's Energy Efficiency Program will enter a new phase, allowing homeowners to have insulation installed with the Government paying the installer directly.

This will provide work for thousands of tradespeople across the country, and the Government has developed a short training course to encourage more people to start working on the program.

This report is prepared to keep industry and the community informed of progress in rolling out the Economic Stimulus Plan, including how businesses can get work. Some highlights of recent progress are listed below.

Schools

- School construction and upgrades are progressing very well with over 5,400 projects currently underway across Australia, supporting local tradespeople and businesses.
- State and Territory Governments and Block Grant Authorities (responsible for the administration of Catholic and Independent schools) are tendering for construction work.
- Businesses interested in work, or tradespeople interested in sub-contracting, should visit australia.gov.au/economicstimulus and follow the links to State and Territory websites for details of how to get involved.

Primary Schools for the 21st Century

- Over 280 Primary School construction projects have begun. The program provides a new school library, hall, or classroom upgrade for every primary school.
- The Federal Minister for Education and Employment, Julia Gillard recently announced that 3716 Australian primary schools will receive \$6.3 billion for major infrastructure projects under Round Two.
- With the third and final round remaining, Primary Schools for the 21st Century has to date committed \$9.1 billion to 5215 eligible primary schools for 6983 projects to help stimulate jobs in every local community.
- In South Australia 19 contracts have been approved to build new halls, libraries and classrooms in primary schools.

National School Pride Program – School Maintenance and Repairs

- 5120 school maintenance and minor infrastructure projects have commenced including school hall upgrades, construction of shade structures, and classroom refurbishments. These projects are providing work for tradespeople, small business and suppliers in thousands of communities across Australia.
- Every school in Australia has now been allocated between \$50,000 and \$200,000 for maintenance and repairs. A complete list of schools and their planned projects for the National School Pride Program is available at australia.gov.au/economicstimulus.

Energy Efficiency

- More than 38,000 Australian homeowners have had ceiling insulation installed in their homes and more than 30,000 home owners have installed a solar hot water system under the Stimulus Plan's Energy Efficiency Program.
- From 1 July a new process starts, and households will be able to have insulation installed with the Government paying the installer directly up to \$1600 per house.
- Registration opened on 10 June 2009, with the Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, inviting eligible businesses from around the country to register for the ceiling insulation program Installer Provider Register. In the first week, more than 2000 businesses registered for the program. Businesses that want to be involved in the new process from 1 July can register on-line by visiting australia.gov.au/economicstimulus and clicking "Work Opportunities".

Community Infrastructure

- 101 community infrastructure projects funded through the Community Infrastructure Program have been completed.
- All Councils were entitled to receive funding under the program. These projects have supported jobs and local businesses, like the construction of a new grandstand complex and change rooms in Renmark, SA. Local and regional businesses were involved during construction including: tilt slabs manufactured on site by local contractors, roofing steelwork manufactured and erected by local contractors, and local labour and specialist trades undertook site preparation and all internal fit out

including electrical plumbing and painting works. Seven apprentices were also supported during construction of this project.

- 2725 projects are currently underway in all States and Territories:

State	Projects	Projects Commenced
NSW	1,162	998
Victoria	716	592
Queensland	376	290
Western Australia	390	341
South Australia	387	338
Tasmania	146	124
ACT	2	2
Northern Territory	41	40
Total	3,220	2725

Road and Rail Infrastructure

- Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese has announced that work will start this week on the \$10.4 million stage three upgrade of the Bruce Highway through Gympie. The work will support 166 jobs over the life of the Bruce Hwy Gympie Upgrade project and is part of the Government's *Nation Building for Recovery* strategy.
- Work is underway on a series of improvements to the NSW Hunter Valley rail network. The work is expected to generate up to 650 jobs at the peak of its construction phase.
- Black Spot road safety projects are starting at many sites across Australia, with 12 started in NSW and another 12 projects in Western Australia.
- 6 level crossing projects are underway on the Gawler-Barossa line in South Australia.
- 16 level crossing sites have now been upgraded in Victoria, with boom gates, flashing lights and better signage, while a further four projects will be completed by the end of the month.
- The first eight level crossing upgrades are due to be completed by the end of this month in Queensland.
- Construction of the new \$618 million Kempsey Bypass has moved a step closer with detailed planning and engineering work getting underway. Full construction of the Kempsey by-pass is scheduled to start in early 2010 and support 450 jobs over the life of the project. The Bypass was announced in last month's Budget and will be funded from the Government's Building Australia Fund.

Social Housing Construction

- Construction of over 270 new dwellings is underway, with many more starting in coming months:
 - 212 dwellings in NSW
 - 52 dwellings in Western Australia
 - 6 dwellings in Queensland
 - 7 dwellings in South Australia

- 95 tradespeople from bricklayers to plumbers, have been directly working on a site in Queanbeyan, NSW that is being redeveloped to provide four new social housing dwellings.
- Construction is soon to start in the ACT building houses in Franklin, Ainslie, Downer, Wanniasa, Richardson, Gowrie, West Belconnen, Narrabundah and Garran.
- Treasury has estimated that the \$6.4 billion investment to build 20,000 social housing dwellings will support 15,000 jobs nationally over the next two years.

Social Housing Repairs and Maintenance

- Federal Housing Minister, Tanya Plibersek and NSW Housing Minister, David Borger recently announced that over \$1.4 million is being invested in Bega and Monaro to upgrade 398 social housing homes as part of the Stimulus Plan. The breakdown of the investment for the area includes:
 - Bega - \$658,805 to upgrade 184 homes
 - Monaro - \$766,696 to upgrade 214 homes
- In Western Australia 5 dwelling refurbishments have been completed. Another 15-20 projects will be completed in the next week.

Defence Housing

- The first two new Defence houses have been completed in just 10 weeks – three months ahead of schedule. The houses are located in Brisbane and Townsville. The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd recently visited the Brisbane house to inspect the site. A further five houses are due to be completed in Brisbane and several more houses completed in Townsville by the end of the month.
- Work is underway on 253 of the 802 houses for our Defence Personnel:
 - 28 houses in Adelaide,
 - 70 houses in Townsville;
 - 58 houses in Darwin;
 - 37 houses in Ipswich;
 - 41 houses in Brisbane; and
 - 19 houses in regional Victoria.
- Four apprentices have been engaged in Townsville and two in Canberra, with additional apprentices to start work on Darwin and Brisbane sites soon.

TAFE

- 32 TAFE institutes will share in \$200 million for training infrastructure which will focus on the emerging greens skills sector, community services, construction, manufacturing and agriculture. A full list of the projects is available from www.deewr.gov.au/tlcfvet.

For full details of the Economic Stimulus Plan and a map of projects in your area – go to australia.gov.au/economicstimulus

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