

## Media Releases

### Dixon unveils brand new Meadows Primary School

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Education Minister Martin Dixon has officially opened the new \$8.32 million Meadows Primary School in Melbourne's north.

Meadows Primary School was formed following the 2009 merger of Campmeadows and Meadowbank schools and is the new home for 275 primary students in Gerbert St, Broadmeadows.

Mr Dixon said the official opening of Meadows Primary's stunning new facilities represented a significant milestone for education in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

"Today is a real celebration as Meadows Primary School now has modern, green-friendly school buildings specifically-designed to meet the needs of 21st Century learning and teaching," Mr Dixon said.

"The learning centres have been designed to encourage collaborative learning and importantly, the school is technology rich with computers and electronic whiteboards.

"This is an exciting chapter in Meadows Primary School's history and a wonderful day for local students, teachers and parents."

The Victorian Government contributed \$2.84 million towards the school building project, which included funding for the development of a new early learning and care centre also at the Gerbert Street site. The Commonwealth (\$5.48m) funded the remainder through its Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

Mr Dixon said the new Meadows Primary School possessed cutting-edge, environmentally-sustainable features such as solar power and passive cooling.

"Impressively, the school generates power through rooftop solar panels and four wind turbines while rainwater tanks underground hold 500,000 litres of water, which is used to flush toilets and water the gardens," Mr Dixon said.

"Meadows Primary's energy-efficient and cost-effective passive cooling system means that the school buildings are cooled without air conditioners, as fresh air is drawn through pipes under the floor and cooled as it passes through the rainwater tanks.

"These innovative green features have been highlighted at a professional design conference in the United Kingdom and India while the Sustainability Research Department of the University of Melbourne is set to study the building's performance."

Mr Dixon said the new facilities were an exciting adjunct to the wonderful programs offered at Meadows Primary School.

"Meadows Primary is involved in the Pizzicato Effect project that sees students learn about music with the help of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and is also involved in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program.

"The new Meadows Primary School together with the new early learning and care centre is a wonderful asset for families in Broadmeadows."

The Coalition Government's recent state budget will see Victoria's government schools benefit from an extra \$700 million in new funding over the next four years including \$100 million for increased school maintenance. The budget also delivered an extra \$208 million for school capital projects.