

## **Building the Education Revolution**

Building the Education Revolution (BER) is part of the Commonwealth Government's economic stimulus package. Its first objective is to create jobs through construction works and maintenance projects at schools across the state.

It is important that you are aware that figures reported in the media suggesting total funding of \$3.2 million per school are incorrect. The Commonwealth has set out indicative funding caps for each school based on enrolment numbers. \$3.2 million is the maximum figure for schools with more than 400 students. These indicative figures do not represent a set amount of funding for each school.

The funds allocated to NSW must be used immediately, so that the economic benefits occur now, when they are needed. All projects need to be completed by the end of March 2011. This means projects that cannot be delivered within the required time will not be funded under this initiative.

To begin with, NSW Government schools must deliver \$220 million worth of projects for the first stage of the BER Program by 30 June 2009.

To get work underway immediately in schools across NSW, some of the works that schools have already nominated and which have been placed on a waiting (or priority) list, may now be fast tracked.

The Commonwealth has also allocated funds for other projects. As a school community we will be working together to decide what projects we would like to seek funding for.

Because of the strict Commonwealth timeframes all schools will need to have their priorities returned to the department by 16 March. So consultation within schools will need to be completed before 16 March 2009.

I have met with Juliette Siemsen (School Council President) and Bernadette Slattery (P&C President) as well as teachers to collaborate on the projects which would benefit Belrose.

A webpage with more information has been established and is available at: [www.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.det.nsw.edu.au).

As I'm sure you would understand, for work to be completed in the timeframes set down by the Commonwealth Government some projects (that would normally only be carried out during school holidays) will be undertaken during the school term. We might have to slightly alter the way we organise classes or use facilities. We believe that some short term inconvenience to achieve greater longer term benefits for students is worthwhile.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Jan Cohen