



The new town in the Swan Valley

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3 June 2010

New Schools for Ellenbrook

Currently home to three high schools and six primary schools, local Ellenbrook residents will be spoilt for choice when three more schools open by 2012.

With work at Ellenbrook Secondary College well underway, the new Catholic Secondary School, Holy Cross College, at Coolamon just opened this year and the recent announcement of a new primary school for Malvern Springs by 2012 - the education options for the expanding Ellenbrook population are rapidly growing.

LWP Managing Director, Danny Murphy, welcomed the opening of the new schools and noted that educational facilities are now an important cornerstone of the Ellenbrook community.

“Ellenbrook currently has a population of around 19,000 and to have at its disposal such a great selection of public and private schooling with first class facilities is a real draw to the many families living in the area,” Mr Murphy said.

The State Government recently announced four new primary schools to be opened in time for the 2012 school year, with Malvern Springs, in Ellenbrook, named as one of the locations.

The school at Malvern Springs will blend with the local environment of Malvern Springs and has been designed to be environmentally sustainable, have enhanced accessibility and will be equipped with the latest in computer technology, including fibre optic cabling and wireless networks throughout the classrooms.

It will comprise thirteen classrooms; three early childhood education classrooms; library / resource centre; a music room; an art/craft room; covered assembly area; canteen and administration and staff facilities.

Danny Murphy said getting a school so soon in the development of the village is great news for the residents of Malvern Springs.

“When planning Malvern Springs, we located the school in the heart of the village centre,” Mr Murphy said.

“This will mean that when the new community centre is open and the mixed use commercial sites are also up and running, there will be great potential for mums and dads to stop and get a coffee after dropping the kids at school, emphasising that wonderful community atmosphere of the village.”

The school site is also located on the hike and bike path which travels through Malvern Springs and connects the village to other parts of Ellenbrook.

“Having the school right on the hike and bike path gives parents and students the opportunity to walk or cycle to school in safety,” Mr Murphy added.

The 4 hectare site for the school is located on Chandala Turn and Elmridge Parkway in Malvern Springs, a site which Mr Murphy believes is ideal.

“The school site is a great location and will be a fantastic service for the growing number of families in Malvern Springs,” he said.

“It is great that for such a new village we have been able to secure the building of a school so soon.”

Meanwhile Holy Cross College opened in Coolamon this year with students in years 7 and 8. The new Catholic College will eventually grow to become a six stream secondary college, catering for students in years 7 through to 12.

Principal, Ms Mandy Connor, said the college is very much future focused, committing to engaging young people in education relevant to the 21st century and as such has a strong technology focus.

“We have in place an individual laptop program, which supports the implementation of innovative pedagogies and student-centred learning,” Ms Connor said.

“Students engage in a wide range of learning experiences, developing skills to become lifelong learners,” she added.

Set on a 13.8 hectare site, Holy Cross College’s facilities include a middle school learning area, a learning resource centre, science laboratories, a food technology studio, art studio, design and technology studio and a café. Playing fields are also now established with hard courts currently under construction.

The expansion of Ellenbrook Secondary College is also currently progressing, with the \$25 million Stage Two project transforming the college into a senior high school for the commencement of the 2011 school year.

“Facilities in this second stage include a lecture theatre, seminar rooms, specialised technology and enterprise rooms, science and computing rooms, general classrooms and a senior administration centre.

“There will also be a senior school courtyard area, upgrades to the physical education facilities, home economics and visual arts,” said Mr Leigh Cottrill, Principal of Ellenbrook Secondary College.

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