

**Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development
The Honourable Andrew Fraser****Monday, April 20, 2009****SEVEN NEW SCHOOLS AND THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS FOR SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND**

Seven new state schools will be built in high-growth areas of South East Queensland and will generate thousands of new jobs following the awarding of a \$1.1 billion dollar contract under the Queensland Government's landmark SEQ Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schools project.

Treasurer Andrew Fraser said the successful Aspire Schools consortium would design, build and maintain six new primary schools and one new high school in the rapidly-growing Sunshine Coast, Western Corridor, the Gold Coast and Redlands regions.

"This PPP project will benefit families and taxpayers by helping to fast-track the building of these schools, while locking in maintenance funding for 30 years," Mr Fraser said.

"It will generate 2150 new jobs over the four and half year construction period and many more during the 30-year ongoing maintenance period delivered by the consortium.

"Construction will begin shortly on prep to Year 7 primary schools at Thornlands South in Brisbane and Peregrin Springs on the Sunshine Coast. These schools are due to open in January 2010, with accommodation for up to 370 students each."

"Three more prep to Year 7 schools - at Bellbird Park and Collingwood Park in Ipswich and in East Coomera - will open their doors in 2011, while a new primary school at Bundilla and a new Year 7 to 12 high school at Murrumba Downs will be ready by 2012.

"All seven schools will have first-class facilities and be built in two stages, with energy efficiency measures that will achieve a four-star Greenstar rating from the Green Building Council of Australia."

Mr Fraser said the PPP School project builds on the award-winning Southbank TAFE redevelopment.

"Aspire Schools will have responsibility for issues including maintenance, cleaning, janitorial work, grounds keeping and security, leaving the principal and teachers to get on with the job of teaching," Mr Fraser said.

"Community groups and Parent and Citizens' Associations will also remain integral to each school's community."

Members of the Aspire Schools consortium include Leighton Contractors, Leighton Services, Commonwealth Bank, Broad Group with private finance provided by Leightons and Commonwealth Bank entities and National Australia Bank.

Mr Fraser said the signing today of final contractual terms was the final step before financial close due in coming weeks.

Media contact: Treasurer's Office - 3224 6361 or 3224 5982

Source: <http://www.cabinet.qld.gov.au/MMS/StatementDisplaySingle.aspx?id=63381>