

WORK TO START ON MARYSVILLE SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S HUB

From the Minister for Education

Friday, 30 October 2009

Works on a major new \$7 million community health, recreation and learning hub in Marysville will begin in November in a significant step forward for the fire-devastated town.

Contract Control Services will build the first stage of the new Marysville Community Learning, Health and Recreation Hub, starting work in the next few weeks, in what will be the first major rebuilding works in Marysville since the Black Saturday fires.

Education Minister Bronwyn Pike said stage one would involve construction of a primary school and early learning centre, with the school ready for students to move back in for term two next year.

“We will continue to stand by communities as they recover and rebuild their homes, communities and lives following the worst natural disaster in our nation’s history,” Ms Pike said.

“We know that Marysville families want their children to return to school here as soon as possible and we’ve been working closely with the community to progress this important project.

“This is not just rebuilding the school – we are building a brand new community centre which will provide spaces for social and arts activities, meetings, functions, sports and recreation. It will be home to the new school as well as a kindergarten and children’s centre and health centre, providing top-quality education opportunities and health services for Marysville families.”

The first stage of the new \$7 million Marysville Community Learning, Health and Recreation Hub forms a key part of a \$193 million joint Commonwealth and Victorian Government package to drive recovery in communities across the state, announced by the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and the Premier John Brumby last month.

The \$193 million Rebuilding Together Plan allocated \$5.2 million in new funding for the hub, building on \$1.8 million already allocated for the primary school.

The centre will also include a maternal and child health consultation room. A shared foyer, administration, staff and resource areas will service both the new school and early learning centre, with all facilities under the one roof and linked to the community hub.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretary for Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction Bill Shorten said the Rudd Government was committed to working shoulder to shoulder with

the Victorian community as they rebuilt after the Black Saturday fires.

“We understand how important it is to the Marysville community that their town is rebuilt in a way that honours its memory as an iconic Victorian town but also secures a bright, prosperous future for Marysville families,” Mr Shorten said.

“Working in partnership with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority the local community has driven the building priorities for Marysville which is being backed by a \$193 million Rudd and Brumby Government commitment.

“Through the Rebuilding Together plan we will rebuild schools, community facilities and other vital infrastructure lost in the fires. We will regenerate the natural environment, stimulate local economic recovery and continue to support individuals and families as they rebuild their homes and businesses.

“The plan sets out the rebuilding priorities which have been driven by local communities, to rebuild their essential town buildings and services, to generate business growth and investment and to rehabilitate key local attractions central to their future prosperity.

“It is the culmination of hundreds of hours of careful thought and discussions across fire-devastated communities about what they need – not only to recover – but to secure stable, sustainable and bright futures.”

Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development Maxine Morand said the hub would form the heart of the Marysville community.

“This project is not just about rebuilding – it is about providing Marysville families with high quality facilities they can benefit from and enjoy in their community,” Ms Morand said.

“The building of Marysville’s new primary school and children’s centre – as part of an iconic Marysville Learning, Health and Recreation Hub – is about supporting communities to rebuild.

“There are great benefits in locating these services in close proximity to each other. It will mean greater convenience for families accessing services and closer integration between services, for example, having health services provided to children in the preschool and the primary school.”