

Building the Education Revolution Bulletin No. 6

DECEMBER 2009

(1) What's new on the BER website

Estimated cost breakdowns on the BER website

The BER Program Office is pleased to announce that it has started posting estimated cost breakdowns for P21 projects on the BER website. Estimated cost information for each P21 project will be posted on the school's page when the project is approved to start construction. Information will be updated when the project's Benchmark Value is assessed and again at the end when the final cost of the project is known.

Cost breakdown information is emailed to school Principals before it is posted on the website. If you have specific questions regarding your school's estimated costs please contact your Regional Program Director or your Principal Liaison Officer.

Celebrating our successes

The BER Program is a once in a lifetime opportunity to invest in state of the art facilities which students, teachers and the wider community will enjoy for generations to come. We would like to celebrate the amazing benefits that this investment is delivering – transforming schools into 21st century learning environments and enabling schools to play an even greater role in supporting the broader community.

If you have photos or stories about the impact that your school's NSP, P21 or SLC project has made please send us a message through the [Tell Your Story](http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/) link at: <http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/>.

If you are interested in viewing a slide-show of successful NSP projects go to:
<http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/index.php/national-school-pride/about/>

We have also developed a poster to celebrate the progress we have made and some of the projects we are delivering at public schools across NSW. This can be accessed at:
<http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/berposter.pdf>.

New fact sheets

P21 Project Lifecycle Fact Sheet

The BER Program Office will shortly be issuing a new fact sheet which explains how projects are developed from funding allocation through to design development, scope finalisation, tendering, construction, completion and handover. The fact sheet also describes how costs are managed and controlled at each stage in the project lifecycle. The new P21 Project Lifecycle Fact Sheet will be available on the BER Website soon.

Planning Approval Fact Sheet

Almost all new construction projects, and some refurbishment projects, will need statutory planning approval before works can start, to ensure that buildings are safe and that the environment is protected. The BER Program Office has developed a fact sheet which explains how the Managing Contractors assess each project and determine the appropriate statutory planning pathway based on the criteria in relevant legislation. The BER Planning Approval Fact Sheet is available at: http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/Planning_Pathways-09-11-12.pdf

(2) Primary Schools for the 21st Century

P21 status

The last Bulletin announced that we had reached a major milestone by completing the first P21 project - Ebor Public School. We have just passed another major milestone by approving over 1,000 school projects to start construction. Over 40% of the program is now either in construction or about to start. The program is on track to meet the deadlines set in the Australian Government's Guidelines, which are unchanged.

Rephasing

On 2 November the Australian Government announced that it wanted to "rephase" \$500 million of national P21 funding from 2010/2011 into the 2011/2012 financial year. In NSW this means the BER Program Office needs to move just under \$108 million worth of project works into 2011/2012. This represents NSW public schools' pro-rata share. It's a relatively small amount of funding, so there should be little disruption to the way the Managing Contractors are delivering most P21 projects. The BER Program Office is finalising its strategy for deferring some project works to 2011/2012. We will provide information to all schools about the strategy as soon as possible.

Occupational health and safety and child safety

The **Construction Site Manager** is responsible for controlling access to the construction site and making sure that people sign in and out and wear appropriate **Personal Protection Equipment** (PPE) at all times. Principals are asked to make sure that the school community is aware of the Site Managers' responsibilities.

The Managing Contractor is required to keep students and teachers safe. This includes: separating the work site from students and teachers; avoiding interaction between workers, children and other users of the school; and ensuring that each worker's identity card is visible at all times whilst on school grounds. All workers on site must also complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration (PED) stating that they are not a "prohibited person" as defined under the *Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1988* and Part 7 of the *Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998* before they are allowed to enter the construction work area.

New Vodcasts on

www.ber.nsw.gov.au

Two new vodcasts featuring BER Program Director, **Angus Dawson**, are about to be posted on the website, covering:

- The new project cost information being posted on the BER website; and
- The challenges and opportunities of the BER program.

Managing Contractors use of school electricity

Our contract with the Managing Contractors requires the Department of Education and Training to cover the cost of all utilities used during the construction of P21 Projects.

Within annual global budgets, schools are provided with an allocation to cover utilities costs. It is expected that temporary utilities cost increases due to BER Projects will be minimal. If the cost of utilities on your school's P21 project causes your school to exceed its utilities allocation, please contact the School Financial Support Unit (Ph: 13 10 72) for advice and assistance.

We have instructed the Managing Contractors to use alternative sources of electricity if their use of the school's supply is causing electrical disruptions such as temporary black-outs. If a school Principal is concerned about this issue they should raise it with their Managing Contractor in the first instance. If the issue is not addressed satisfactorily Principals can raise it with the BER Program Office's Regional Program Director or Principal Liaison Officer.

Interactive Whiteboards included in classroom projects in error

The Schools Facilities Standards (SFS) and the P21 Standard Design Plans require new classrooms and refurbished classrooms to have a reinforced front wall and sufficient data points and cabling to enable an Interactive Whiteboard (IWB) to be installed in the future. They do not require installation of an IWB.

Bovis Lend Lease, the Managing Contractor in the North Sydney and Hunter Central Coast regions, misinterpreted the DET's Standard Design Plans and thought that classroom projects included the installation of IWBs.

Bovis Lend Lease has written to all schools affected by this mistake to confirm that "the installation of an interactive whiteboard was never part of your school's project brief, and was added in error." Bovis Lend Lease has also apologised for any distress this confusion may have caused schools and their community.

The IWB issue was an unfortunate error, which has been rectified. We should not let this affect the very good working relationships that have already been developed and our ability to continue to deliver P21 projects successfully.

P21 funding transfers between schools

The BER Program Office aims to deliver each school's Australian Government approved project in full, not more. The budget transfers procedure is our tool for managing budget over and under spends across the program and maximising every school's opportunity to receive their full project and benefit fairly from P21.

Under the budget transfer procedure we only ask those schools that are receiving their full project, as approved by the Australian Government and described in the Project Brief, to allow left over funds to be transferred to another NSW public school that is over budget despite all reasonable cost saving actions being taken.

Michael Coutts-Trotter, the Director-General of the Department of Education and Training, and Geoff Scott on behalf of the NSW Primary Principals' Association have issued a joint memo thanking the Principals that have already agreed to transfer left over money to another school in our public education system, and encouraging others to do the same. You can view this joint memo at: [http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/DG and PPA Budget Transfers Memo.pdf](http://www.ber.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/12/DG_and_PPA_Budget_Transfers_Memo.pdf)

Michael Coutts-Trotter is also personally writing to thank all school Principals that have agreed to allow left over funds to be transferred to another NSW public school.

(3) National School Pride

Round 1 deadlines

The Australian Government has advised that they will approve requests from Round 1 schools to extend their completion deadline to 1 February 2010. The Round 2 completion deadline remains 1 February 2010. There has been no indication from the Australian Government that the Round 2 deadline will be changed or extended.

If you are a locally managing Round 1 school and you have not requested an extension of time, your deadline has not changed – you must finish by 20 December 2009. If your school's project is in Round 1 and is being managed by the Asset Management Unit (AMU), you don't need to worry about applying for an extension of time. This will be managed by the AMU if required.

Interactive Whiteboards

The NSP Team is working very hard with the NSP supplier of IWBs to make sure that the deadlines are met. However, this is a very large program requiring a lot of coordination. The NSP Team is monitoring timeframes and any potential risks of delay - no school will be disadvantaged if the installation of their schools IWB is delayed.

(4) Science and Language Centres

Program Update

Arthur Phillip High School's project to refurbish five science classrooms is the second SLC project to complete. The school is delighted with the results, (see story, right).

Four more science laboratory refurbishment projects are due to complete in the coming week: Wiley Park Girls High School, Birrong Boys High School, Birrong Girls High School and Strathfield South High School. The new construction program is also on target, with site investigation and detailed designs complete across the program and the majority of school sites now established.

**Deputy Principal Brad Main,
Arthur Phillip High School**

"We now have modern facilities to support quality teaching...The transformation from the old to new is fantastic. The once dull antiquated labs are now bright and spacious. Each lab has two high quality finished and fitted learning spaces.

Bovis Lend Lease were great to work with. Contractors often find it difficult to work with schools' routines but Bovis Lend Lease were very flexible...Disruption was kept to a minimum by trying to fit in with the school organisation.

(5) Updated contact details

You can always access the most up to date contact information for Principal Liaison Officers, Regional Program Directors and Managing Contractors on the BER intranet site or by using the following links:

- [P21 Principal Liaison Officers](#) and [Managing Contractors](#)
- [NSP Principal Liaison Officers](#)
- [SLC Principal Liaison Officers](#)