



# News Release

## Sharon Bird MP

Federal Member for Cunningham

[www.sharonbird.com.au](http://www.sharonbird.com.au)

Telephone: 02 4228 5899

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## **\$210 million investment in education infrastructure in Cunningham electorate**

The Commonwealth Government has invested on average \$9.54 million each month since May 2008 in education infrastructure in the Cunningham electorate, Federal Member for Cunningham, Sharon Bird, announced today.

Ms Bird highlighted the Commonwealth Government's investment as work begins on the Workers' Education Association (WEA) Wollongong \$1.3 million building project.

This \$210 million investment has targeted infrastructure in all local primary and high schools, Illawarra Institute of TAFE, WEA, and University of Wollongong.

The key features of the Commonwealth Government's investment include:

- \$43.8 million to build the Australian Institute for Innovative Materials (announced on 13 May 2009)
- \$35 million for the SMART Infrastructure Facility (announced on 12 December 2008)
- \$107.3 million for National School Pride and Primary Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (P21) Programmes (announced throughout 2009)
- \$9.8 million for TAFE Illawarra, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing and Environmental Technology (announced 16 June 2009)
- \$3.1 million for TAFE Illawarra Wollongong and West Wollongong campus' (announced 4 June 2009)
- \$9.7 million for University of Wollongong under Better Universities Renewal Program (announced 14 May 2008).

The investment in education infrastructure has helped maintain employment and jobs in the construction industry.

“These employment opportunities range from up to 15 jobs for the completion of the WEA building project to up to 340 jobs for the completion of the University of Wollongong’s SMART Infrastructure Facility in 2011.

“As a former teacher, I am very pleased that the Commonwealth Government’s investment in education institutions in my electorate will benefit students and teaching staff into the future”, Ms Bird said.

3 March 2010