$50 MILLION FOR EXTRA SCHOOL PROJECTS

Around 900 public schools in NSW will receive $50 million worth of new interactive whiteboards, air conditioning and other projects after the successful management of the Building the Education Revolution program in NSW primary schools.

The NSW Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth today said schools would benefit from savings under the BER which would allow for 3,000 whiteboards to go to schools as well as solar panels, water tanks and covered walkways.

“Budgets for projects were based on estimated costs and some funds were set aside in the early stages of the BER until they were complete.

“Now that we’re nearing the completion of the majority of projects under P21, those contingency funds are available to be freed up so schools can receive these extra projects.

“What it shows is that for many projects, the actual construction costs are lower than what was estimated.”

Ms Firth said schools would be consulted about which project best suited their needs.

“The BER Program Office will work with Regional Program Directors and key stakeholders like the NSW Primary Principals’ Association to ensure the smooth delivery of each school’s project.

“This funding is only available for P21 projects. Around 3,000 new whiteboards will be given to schools for all new and refurbished classrooms which are in addition to whiteboards already installed in new libraries under P21.

Ms Firth said the BER Program Office would be contacting principals to explain how the works would be delivered.

“Here in NSW we have 95% of our P21 projects under construction – we’re leading the nation for our delivery of the BER - and it’s fantastic we can deliver these extra projects to hundreds of our primary schools.