NSW FIRST TO COMPLETE NATIONAL SCHOOL PRIDE

The Minister for Education and Training, Verity Firth, today announced that NSW was the first state to complete $287 million in works undertaken as part of the National School Pride component of the Australian Government’s *Building the Education Revolution*.

Ms Firth said 2,179 projects have been undertaken in public schools to refurbish existing infrastructure and provide new minor building works.

“The National School Pride projects started in April, 2009 and there was an estimated average of 2,800 daily on-site workers.

The projects included:

- refurbishing toilet blocks at almost 200 schools
- installing floor coverings at more than 1000 schools
- undertaking painting at almost 1000 schools
- installing and refurbishing fencing at more than 150 schools
- refurbishing playgrounds and sports courts at more than 500 schools
- installing and refurbishing paving in nearly 400 schools.

“Through this program, schools received up to $200,000 depending on the number of students enrolled,” Ms Firth said.

“The money needed to be spent quickly within a tight timetable to help immediately stimulate the economy and support local employment.”

Ms Firth said National School Pride was one of three components of the *Building the Education Revolution*, which also included Primary Schools for the 21st Century and Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools.

“The P21 program is a $3 billion investment to build or upgrade large-scale infrastructure such as libraries, halls and classrooms in every public primary school in NSW.

“Construction has started on 94 percent of projects and finished on 22 percent of the 2,370 projects across 1,782 schools.

“All of the Science and Language projects have begun, with 61 percent finished,” Ms Firth said.

NSW public schools will receive $2.5 billion for upgrades and $400 million for maintenance this year through Commonwealth and state funding.