



The Hon. Ben Carroll MP

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Medical Research

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Robert McDonald  
Clerk  
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Parliament of Victoria  
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Dear Mr McDonald

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Mount Eliza Secondary College.

We are committed to growing educational opportunities for all Victorians. As you know, we have invested over \$14.9 billion over the past 9 years to build new schools and modernise existing educational facilities across Victoria. Our ongoing responsibility is to balance and prioritise the needs of over 1,570 government schools, all with varying requirements.

As you are aware, Mount Eliza Secondary College was allocated \$499,127 in the 2022–23 State Budget for a Minor Capital Works Fund project to refurbish the student toilets in its canteen and wellbeing areas. I can advise that the project is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2024. Moreover, under the Schools Upgrade Fund Targeted Round for the 2024, the college was allocated \$1.5 million to refurbish the science wing including 4 labs and 3 classrooms.

The infrastructure needs of all schools, including Mount Eliza Secondary College, are considered through the annual State Budget process. To determine recommendations for the Victorian Government, Department of Education uses all available information, including condition assessments, enrolment projections and pre-existing project plans. The department also takes a long-term view for capital works and recommends funding for schools that are in poor condition.

Ensuring school premises are safe, secure and well-maintained is a shared responsibility between schools and the department. As you are aware, school councils have general oversight of school buildings to ensure that they are in good order and condition. School principals are responsible for asset management, which includes the overseeing, planning, and managing the maintenance of school facilities using funds allocated annually through the Student Resource Package (SRP).

With respect to the college's broader maintenance requirements, the department's Rolling Facilities Evaluation (RFE) program is delivering condition assessments to every government school across a 5-year cycle. The college's RFE condition assessment was undertaken in April 2019. The college's next RFE is likely to be in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Following its condition assessment, the department has worked with the college to develop a 5-year School Maintenance Plan (SMP). The SMP will help the college address maintenance issues and establish a program of routine maintenance activities to prevent their recurrence as well as support the upkeep of its facilities.

As part of the 2020–21 Planned Maintenance Program (PMP), the college was allocated \$25,000 to address RFE specialist assessment outcomes. Furthermore, as part of the 2019–20 PMP, the college was allocated \$40,000 to address RFE visual assessment outcomes. In addition, the college was allocated \$107,359 as part of the 2017–18 PMP to address backlog maintenance issues and \$30,000 as part of the 2023–24 PMP for ramp audit outcomes.

If the college undertakes its routine maintenance and an unforeseen issue outside of the college's financial capacity arises, the Emergency Maintenance Program (EMP) can provide assistance. If the college has urgent maintenance or repair issues that are beyond its budget capacity and directly impact on student or staff safety, an application for funding can be made with the assistance of the department's Regional Office, under the EMP.

With respect to the school's science equipment, the department supports a risk management approach for maintaining health and safety in the workplace. Policies, procedures and guidance materials are available to support schools to manage the health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors in schools.

A dedicated OHS Advisory Service is also available to all schools to provide help with implementing OHS Management, including conducting risk assessments if required.

I can assure you the needs of all schools including Mount Eliza Secondary College, will continue to be considered when determining future priorities for the capital works program. The department will continue to use all available data when recommending funding in future State Budgets.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



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