

## **\$3.3million boost to South West Regional College of TAFE trade training**

*Mon 19 October, 2009*

Trade training at South West Regional College of TAFE (SWRC) received a major boost today with the opening of a \$3.3million upgrade to its building trades precinct.

Training Minister Peter Collier opened the new centre - which now includes a plumbing and gas fitting workshop - which is the only major facility of its kind in the region.

Mr Collier said apprentices would benefit significantly from this and enable them to train locally in an environment equal to any in the metropolitan area.

“The new site includes mortar trades and plumbing sheds, two small rooms where students and lecturers can review their work, two new classrooms and enhanced office and storage space,” he said.

“The precinct’s upgrade means the South-West is now more self sufficient in providing skilled workers for the local labour market.

“In addition to plumbing, the precinct will accommodate other trades such as bricklaying, plastering, tiling, painting and wall and ceiling fixing in modern facilities.”

The Minister said the new centre also included a water recycling system designed by lecturers and installed by apprentices. This enabled no mains water needed to be used during plumbing training.

“There are also plans to install a system to recycle all of the mortar and lime used during training by apprentice bricklayers,” he said.

Mr Collier said the improved facilities would provide a simultaneous training hub for both the building industry and for schools.

“Training for the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund introduction program, ‘Try A Trade’, will also be conducted within the precinct,” he said.

“The State Government is determined to seeing people who live in regional areas receive the same training opportunities as those in the metropolitan area, allowing them to gain the skills and qualifications to be part of the State’s economic future.”

