



INVESTING IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

The Rudd Government will deliver around \$3 billion to Australian tertiary education and research from the Education Investment Fund (EIF).

This investment comprises \$934 million for successful projects from EIF Round 2. The Government has approved 31 projects selected from over 160 applications received, including twelve projects for vocational education and training (VET) infrastructure, eleven for higher education teaching and learning facilities, and eight for research infrastructure. The projects span the teaching, learning and research spectrum, as well as a variety of disciplines, including engineering, medicine, marine science, transport and the traditional trades.

The investment also includes a nominal allocation of \$500 million for Round 3 of the EIF, which will open later in 2009.

This is a significant investment in the future productivity and prosperity of our nation. It will enhance the capacity of the tertiary education and research sectors to equip Australians with the high level skills and knowledge necessary in an increasingly competitive world economy. The investment will create jobs and help ensure that the Australian economy remains strong and is well placed to weather the global financial crisis.

In addition, the Government will also undertake a special \$650 million Sustainability Round of the EIF.

The supplementary EIF Sustainability Round includes:

- \$400m for research infrastructure related to the Clean Energy Initiative, and
- \$250m for VET, higher education and research infrastructure related to climate change and sustainability activities.

The funding for vocational education and training providers and higher education and research institutions is an opportunity to give immediate practical effect to sustainable design, energy and research. This will transform our tertiary campuses into 21st century environments that will not only play a key role in delivering a sustainable future through teaching and research but also act as demonstration sites for new and emerging technologies and enable them to be tested at scale.

As part of the Rudd Government's commitment to creating and supporting the jobs of the future, the planned allocation of \$2.5 billion into the Education Investment Fund will be allocated to the ground breaking Clean Energy Initiative.

This new initiative will place Australia at the forefront of the response to climate and drive research in clean energy.

\$1.1 billion will also be provided for the Super Science Initiative which will provide funding for large scale nation building projects allowing Australia to be at the forefront of the global research community. \$901 million of this is from the EIF for the capital elements.

What will this investment deliver?

This investment will develop and enhance existing teaching, learning, training and research facilities for students, apprentices, researchers and research training students, leading to better teaching outcomes as well as growing Australia's research capability and international competitiveness.

The 31 successful EIF Round 2 projects will be delivered between 2009-10 and 2013-14. EIF Round 3 will open later in 2009 and successful projects will be announced in early 2010. It is expected that these projects will be delivered between 2010-11 and 2014-15.

In summary, the Australian Government is committing nearly \$3 billion in this Budget for the tertiary sector and research infrastructure (Rounds 2, 3, a Sustainability Round and Super Science Initiatives of the EIF). This is in addition to \$2.1 billion in capital investments already announced (i.e., Better Universities Renewal Fund, Teaching and Learning Capital Funds for VET and universities, Round 1 of EIF). Committed EIF funding over 2008-13 is \$4.065 billion and a further \$1 billion for the sector is funding directly off Budget.

Next steps

Successful Round 2 tertiary education and research institutions will enter into funding agreements with the Government and work will commence on projects as soon as possible. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants in the coming weeks.

Information about the EIF Sustainability Round and how to apply for EIF Round 3, including guidelines and the application form, will be available on the website (www.deewr.gov.au/eif) when the rounds open later this year.

