

# News Release

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**Premier Mike Rann**  
**Minister Jack Snelling**  
Minister for Employment, Training &  
Further Education

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## TRAINING OUR 'GREEN' BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE AT TONSLEY

A brand new \$125 million Sustainable Industries Education Centre is to be built on the former Mitsubishi site at Tonsley Park by TAFE SA in collaboration with SA universities and industry.

The new centre will specialise in training more than 8000 people a year in new green technologies associated with the building and construction industry – including plumbers, bricklayers, designers and carpenters.

It will be a central focus of the wider 61-hectare Tonsley Park Sustainable Technologies Precinct that is expected to attract \$1 billion of private investment over its 15 year development period and employ up to 8,600 people on site by 2026.

The site was purchased by the State Government from Mitsubishi in February this year.

This week's State Budget funds the new centre that will eventually replace the ageing and outdated TAFE facilities at Marleston, O'Halloran Hill and Panorama.

Premier Mike Rann says the new education centre is designed to transform training in the building, construction and water industries and open the way to incorporating more clean green technology into future building projects.

“This is about making sure the building industry has a workforce capable of implementing the new technologies that will move our State to a low carbon future.

“Building and construction is a \$4.5 billion industry in South Australia that employs 8.3 per cent of our State's total workforce.

“At present it is facing critical skills shortages with demand for building and construction qualifications predicted to increase by at least 30 per cent over the next two years alone.

“TAFE SA provides 80 per cent of the industry's trade qualifications.

“The purpose of building this new centre within this Precinct is to improve links between green technology research and design in our universities, education and training of workers, as well as the industry that relies on both sectors,” Mr Rann said.

Employment, Training and Further Education Minister, Jack Snelling says the Sustainable Industries Education Centre will become TAFE SA's building and construction training hub incorporating dedicated, hands-on learning laboratories.

“Existing TAFE SA building and construction course numbers will be increased by 16 per cent with new training offered in renewable energy and water operations,” Mr Snelling said.

“The project is the result of the State Government’s purchase of the Tonsley Park site and a decision to invest in TAFE SA’s infrastructure.

“Construction is expected to begin in 2011, with an estimated completion date of late 2013.

“Co-location with industry will give ready access to cutting edge training facilities and promote the rapid adoption of sustainable technologies and practices. It will give students the opportunity to learn in a workplace context as they progress from basic skills training through to higher education.

“The innovative education partnership between TAFE and our universities will give students flexibility to move between both tertiary institutions,” Mr Snelling said.

Stage one Master Plan report for the Tonsley Park redevelopment by consultants, SGS Economics & Planning and Alba Capital Partners, noted that the site development and productivity improvements are set to increase Gross State Product by up to \$400 million each year by 2026.

The stage one report says clean tech industries are forecast to grow by 17 per cent over the next 10 years.

Critical to its success will be accessibility to the site, a high-quality environment for knowledge-based workers and ‘soft infrastructure’ to improve links between research, education and industry. These elements will be built into stage two of the master planning process.

The Tonsley Park redevelopment is a flagship project and will ensure South Australia is positioned to capture a share of expected growth in sustainable industries.

The State Government is also investing \$194 million over the next six years to create more than 62,000 additional training places, which combined with the existing Productivity Places Program delivering 38,000 training places, will bring the total to 100,000 extra training places over six years.

The Government also recently announced a ten point *Skills for All* reform agenda which sets out a blueprint for modernising and renewing the VET system aimed at significantly increasing the State’s skill levels to lift workforce participation and increase productivity.

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