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Media Release

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MANAGING CONTRACTORS FOR THE NEW ENGLAND AND NORTH COAST REGIONS THE REED GROUP ANNOUNCE WORKS ON BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION MOVING CLOSER TO A START DATE

North Sydney, Australia: Tuesday 16th June 2009; The Reed Group, Managing Contractor for the New England and North Coast regions for Building the Education Revolution project works have announced that construction works on the first 40 approved school projects are moving towards a start date, following the announcement of their appointment by the NSW Government on April 16.

Building the Education Revolution is a \$14.7 billion national investment from the Australian Government which is part of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan. The Australian Government is aiming to build learning environments to help children, families and communities participate in activities that will support achievement, develop learning potential and bring communities together.

In NSW, over \$2.8 billion of Commonwealth Nation Building funds is being used to benefit over 1,600 public school communities across the state. For the New England and North Coast regions of NSW, the contract is worth \$355 million dollars and covers 347 projects between Taree, Tweed Heads and Moree ranging from \$250,000 to \$3 million dollars each in size with a target completion date for all construction by February 2011.

The NSW Government has established a taskforce to oversee the delivery of the Plan and an integrated program office (IPO) to administer BER across the state. BER comprises three programs:

- Primary Schools for the 21st Century (new or refurbished halls, libraries, classrooms, COLA's and other works)
- National School Pride (maintenance and minor refurbishment works)
- Science and Language Centres for 21st Century Secondary Schools (new or refurbished facilities at selected secondary schools)

Director of Group Construction for The Reed Group, Glenn Robinson said, "For works of this scale and size, there is an enormous amount of design and pre-construction planning that must take place before building works can commence. The good news for communities and all the local contractors and builders who have expressed an interest in working with The Reed Group on these works is that the first 40 school projects have been approved by the Integrated Program Office (IPO) and tenders are very close to being distributed. The works include, but are not limited to, the construction of covered outdoor learning areas (COLA's), multi-purpose halls and libraries across both regions."

NSW Infrastructure Coordinator General, Bob Leece said, "NSW is now embarking on the largest program of capital expenditure ever delivered in its history. Compare this task to what was delivered for the Olympics - it is similar budget, to be delivered in half the time and with a hundred times as many projects. The NSW Government recognises that this is an extraordinary task which requires a streamlined approach to delivery; an approach that reduces red tape whilst ensuring the best value for money, which is why the Managing Contractor model has been introduced."

The Reed Group has a strong track record of project delivery in the New England and North Coast regions including the Bootawa Dam Water Treatment Plant in Taree, Lismore Police Station, Lismore Base Hospital Mental Health Unit redevelopment, Nundle Water Treatment Plant works, Kendall Public School and Link Road projects in the Port Macquarie region, and the Mid North Coast Integrated Cancer Care Services at Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie Hospitals.



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A privately owned company, The Reed Group was established in 1979. Today the business employs over 300 personnel with offices in NSW and Queensland with nine specialised divisions engaged in the design, construction and management for a diverse range of projects.

“The Reed Group is privileged to have been selected as the Managing Contractor for these regions and is looking forward to working with the Australian Government, the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) and the Department of Commerce (DOC) to successfully complete all construction works on each project covered in the program.”

“To ensure the successful management and completion of all construction works, The Reed Group has appointed Chris Andrews as Program Director to oversee all works across the New England and North Coast regions. Chris has over 20 years experience in the industry, working on large scale projects in all sectors, with a focus on Government, institutional and educational, and health projects. He will be supported by five Program Managers who will be based in regional offices to be located at Coffs Harbour, Tamworth, Port Macquarie and Lismore.”

“In delivering these works, The Reed Group expects a minimum of 1500 jobs to be created for local suppliers and subcontractors across both regions and this is good news for business in the area. Right now we are in the process of meeting with School Principals and completing the essential pre construction planning documentation in consultation with the IPO. As soon as that is complete there will be no delay in getting tenders distributed to all the registered local contractors, businesses and trades so they can submit quotes to us for consideration,” said Chris Andrews.

The agreed Australian Government process for the programming of all projects is determined by the receipt of the school specific brief. Upon receipt of the brief, The Reed Group meets with the school Principal, relevant local council, and representatives of DET and DOC, to develop a program for tenders for building works to be completed.

For those schools who may wish to manage their own project, there is also a process in place, and Principals will be able to source quotes from local tradesmen and builders, incorporating the agreed Government process for all Plan related works.

All local contractors, businesses and trades are encouraged to tender for the work in their area and there are three ways to do this.

The Reed Group has set up a register at www.reedgroup.com.au

The NSW Infrastructure Department has been working with the Master Builders Association to collect the details of over 600 regional suppliers who can provide services locally. This register is still open at www.mbansw.asn.au and click on the Stimulus Package icon or The NSW Department of Education and Training has also established a register located at www.det.nsw.edu.au

Employment forums will be held in Port Macquarie, Tamworth, Armidale and Tweed Heads starting at the end of June. These sessions will address all the relevant details for contractors, businesses and trades with regards to tendering for works, the processes and importantly timeframes for responding so that submissions can be considered.

The Reed Group will be communicating the latest information through regular press updates, press releases and online via The Reed Group website at www.reedgroup.com.au to ensure the delivery of relevant information in a timely and widespread manner so everyone is aware of what is happening.

The Reed Group has also established an email at BERenquiries@reedgroup.com.au for any queries and a toll free line will be active from the week commencing Monday 29th June on **1800 18REED (1800-18-7333)**.

ENDS:

All requests for interviews and/or high resolution images should be directed to Melissa Arbuthnot at CommunEcom



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