



SCHOOL LOSES \$10.5M PROJECT

In late November 2012, a couple of months before the state government election, Minister for Education, Peter Collier, and Minister for Culture, Arts and Science, John Day, announced a \$40 million commitment to build specialist facilities at 27 Western Australian district high schools.

Yanchep District High School was promised \$10.5 million for new facilities including two science labs, two design and technology workshops, arts studio, drama room, dance room, media studio, staff study, changing rooms and toilets.

Only seven months after being re-elected the Barnett Liberal Government announced that due to changes to the State Budget, the \$10.5 million upgrade at Yanchep DHS would not go ahead.

On Tuesday 22 October, in State Parliament, Mr Collier, in reply to questions about the Yanchep DHS said: "No construction has commenced, but some planning

has been undertaken.

The 2013-14 budget focused on savings and reform initiatives, including a review of major infrastructure projects . . . As a result, the capital works planned for Yanchep District High School have been deferred. These works will be considered as part of future budget processes."

Yanchep DHS principal, Alan Curtis, said: "Unfortunately due to changes in the State Budget our planned \$10.5m upgrade of facilities at the school will not go ahead at this time.

"We are obviously disappointed as is our whole school community but we will remain positive and continue to offer an outstanding education to students at this school.

"I will of course continue to discuss our school's needs with the Department with a view to reviving this project through future funding should it become available."

Many local residents believe the Barnett Liberal Government doesn't have any interest in providing the region with basic community infrastructure, such as properly equipped schools, local employment opportunities or a much needed train service.

Local State Government Member, John Quigley, told the *Sun City News* that the Barnett Liberal Government had lied to the local community.

A *Sun City News* media enquiry to the Minister for Education, Peter Collier, on 18 October, currently remains unanswered. When a response is received, the Minister's response will be published.

A petition can be found at many local outlets demanding the Barnett Government reverse their decision to cut the funding and complete the promised upgrade to Yanchep DHS.

