



# Boost for education

By DANIELLE GALVIN

MORE than 1100 students could walk through the doors of the Officer Secondary College at the start of next year.

The frame is up for Casey and Cardinia's newest high school next to the Officer Specialist School.

Minister for Education Martin Dixon visited the 8.5 hectare site on Thursday with Gembrook MP Brad Battin and Bass MP Ken Smith to hear from the architect Clarke Hopkins Clarke and builder Melbcon.

"I just can't believe how this area has come on," he said.

"To see this out of the ground ... it's great.

"The actual process of hiring a principal is happening now."

Construction of the first stage of the project-- including specialist teaching spaces for art, graphics, information technology, fabrics, science and technology and toilets-- is on schedule and set to be completed in January next year.

In a prelude to the budget this week, Mr Dixon announced a further \$13 million for the second stage of the school including staff administration, a physical education facility and learning spaces for music, drama, library, and home economics.

The remaining general purpose classrooms will also be provided in a double-storey teaching and learning facility.

"This area of Melbourne has grown so quickly and even though with a secondary school you've got a bit of lead time in terms of coming up through primary schools - there are families of all age groups moving in," Mr Dixon said.

"Studies have shown with the developers, with the shire ABS and our own work, it shows that we really need to get this secondary school up and running fairly quickly.

"When we build a secondary school, we need to be comforted that there will be a long-term enrolment of 1100 students."

The new college is being built on the corner of Parker Street and Bridge Road and will be first new government secondary college delivered in the Cardinia Shire since the Emerald Secondary College.

Mr Dixon said the college was a "good size school" which would give students a range of subject choices.



Education Minister Martin Dixon, Gembrook MP Brad Battin, Bass MP Ken Smith and Wayne Stephens from Clarke Hopkins Clarke at the site of the Officer Secondary College. 119665