Building Levy Annual Statement 2013
Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council

FROM THE BISHOP

My dear people,
The Diocesan Building Levy has been a vital source of support to the ongoing maintenance and growth of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta over many years.

Through the contribution of families and with the assistance of State and Federal Governments, the Building Levy has enabled us to maintain and improve our resources and facilities. It has also allowed us to establish new schools and enlarge and renew older schools to ensure all parish communities in the Diocese are able to meet the desire of families for Catholic education, to a consistently high standard.

Our Catholic schools work through our parishes and in collaboration with our agencies to form young people of faith. We need to consider in our future planning how Catholic education might even more fully embrace the evangelising mission of the Church, and how we might better utilise our facilities and resources to meet the needs identified in our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Faith in Our Future.

The Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council (PDCCS) and the Catholic Education Office have been focusing on these matters in light of the challenges of ongoing government funding and development requirements. Building and improving school infrastructure is a long term investment in young people and in the social fabric of local communities.

We are unfortunately faced with increasing costs and decreasing financial assistance to meet these growing demands for Catholic schooling. While we are always grateful for the support of government, both State and Federal, there is a far greater need than our current resources can accommodate.

In commending this report to you, I wish to thank all those who have given their time and resources to ensure the ongoing sustainability of our school building program. I also thank our families and parishes for their commitment and support of Catholic education. God bless our Catholic Schools!

Yours sincerely in Christ,

(Most Rev) Anthony Fisher
Bishop of Parramatta

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS

The demand for Catholic schooling in Western Sydney is at its highest level as new developments and growth areas continue to emerge, challenging us to look at how we can cater to our growing population at a time when the very nature of school is changing.

The design of learning spaces continues to evolve as our understanding of today’s learners and the practice of teaching deepens. We know that it is not the learning space in and of itself that enables good learning and teaching.

Good learning and teaching happens in an environment where the design is built on strong principles of learning: an understanding of how students learn and through collaboration of teachers who are focused on improving their practice.

Schooling today is increasingly moving away from the “chalk and talk”, “bricks and mortar” models of the past. Students now have opportunities to learn in both the physical and virtual environment with increased connectivity taking a direct impact on the kinds of learning spaces we need to provide in order to best support contemporary learning and teaching needs.

During the BER there was a flourish of construction that provided new and upgraded facilities to our schools. And in order to maintain environments that are relevant to today’s learners, we require ongoing commitment and support in delivering quality learning environments.

As we see the development of high-rise living in our urban centres, we need to look to new models of schooling where there is no land available. This involves thinking creatively about how we deliver schooling and challenge us to think beyond the old model.

I would like to acknowledge the role of our planning reference groups involved in the development of projects, the Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council under the chair of Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, the Financial and Physical Resources Committee, our Parish reference teams, school leadership teams and Catholic Education Office staff for their outstanding delivery of our capital works program.

Gregory B Whitty
Executive Director of Schools

ABOUT THE BUILDING LEVY

Since the commencement of the Diocesan Building Levy program in 1997, parishes have been relieved of any financial responsibility for systemic Catholic schools in the Diocese. The cost of providing new facilities and upgrading school buildings is shared by families with children attending our schools, the Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council (PDCCS).

If, due to financial hardship, a family is unable to pay the building levy, arrangements can be made to have the levy reduced or waived. The school building levy is a successful initiative which has enabled necessary school facilities to be established in the Diocese far sooner than would otherwise have been the case.

As a consequence, staff and students are accommodated in learning environments consistent with the high standard of education that parents have come to expect of Catholic schools in the Diocese.

Substantial levels of capital investment will be required well into the future to meet the needs of our fast growing Diocese. Furthermore, to maintain standards at their present level, and to make improvements where necessary, funds for capital replacement will also be needed. The use of the levy for these purposes is as important today as it was when the fund was established.

In determining the projects that will be undertaken each year, the PDCCS receives advice from its Financial and Physical Resources Committee based on submissions received from schools. Priority is based on educational needs and standards relating to area, the functionality and relationship of spaces, and the quality of accommodation.

Dioceasran School Building Levy Fund Statement for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Actual $ 2013</th>
<th>Actual $ 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
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<td>Debt Servicing</td>
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<td>Total Cash Payments</td>
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<td>Closing Balance</td>
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<td>4,944,671</td>
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</tbody>
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Construction Program:

The continuing success of the Diocesan Building Levy has enabled the Parramatta Diocesan Catholic Schools Council to implement its policy to bring all schools up to the levels established by the Bishops of NSW, based on Australian Government standards. The current construction program totals $204m of projects planned for construction between 2011 and 2020.

School | Location | Project
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St Michael’s Primary | Blacktown | Construct GLAs
Patrician Brothers College | Blacktown | Construct and refurbish TAS & GLAs
Napole College | Blacktown | Construct and refurbish TAS & GLAs
St Michael’s Primary | Blacktown | New Growth - refurbish GLAs
Proposed Primary | Box Hill North | Stage 1, 2 and 3
Proposed Secondary | Box Hill | Stage 1 and 3
St Bernard’s primary | Castle Hill | Refurbish GLAs
Glynis Catholic College | Castle Hill | Construct and refurbish GLAs & Library
Holy Family Primary | Emerton | Fire Protection Stage 1 & 2
McCarthy Catholic College | Emu Plains | Refurbish MPC and construct Library
Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary | Emu Plains | Construct GLAs
St Paul’s College | Greystanes | Construct GLAs & specialist facilities
St Clare’s Catholic College | Hassall Grove | Construct GLAs
Our Lady of the Rosary Primary | Kingsville | Refurbish GLAs and Horden Drive Subdivision
Marian Catholic College | K increases | Construct GLAs & specialist facilities
St Andrews Primary | Mascot | Construct GLAs
St Andrews College | Mascot | Construct GLAs and specialist facilities
Marsden Park Primary | Mascot Park | Stage 1, 2 and 3
Marsden Park Secondary | Mascot Park | Stage 1, 2 and 3
Canter College | Merrylands | Construct and refurbish GLAs and refubish science
Sacred Heart Primary | Merrylands | Construct and refurbish GLAs
Loyal Senior High School | Merrylands | Construct and refurbish GLAs
Good Shepard Primary | Merrylands | Construct and refurbish GLAs
St John’s Primary | Merrylands | Construct and refurbish GLAs
St John’s Primary | Merrylands | New Growth - GLAs
Our Lady of the Angels Primary | Merrylands | Construct GLAs
St Josephs Primary | Schioppato | Construct GLAs
Tona School | Schioppato | Construct GLAs
St Columbus High School | Springwood | Construct GLAs and refubish science
Our Lady of the Rosary Primary | St Marys | New Construction
John N RX Catholic Primary | Stanhope Gardens | Stage 1 and 2 GLAs, principal and admin
Mount Carmel Catholic College | Stanhope Gardens | Stage 1 and 4
Additional High Needs Unit | Villawood | Additional High Support Needs Places
Mother Teresa Primary | Windraj | Stage 1 and 2 H&G project
Catherine Hickiery | Windraj | Construct GLAs, specialist facilities and TAS
Panamatta Monti High | Windraj | Refurbish admin, library and specialist facilities
Schofield College | Windsor South | Construct GLAs and specialist facilities
Note: GLA = General Learning Area, TAS = Technology and Applied Studies, MPC = Multipurpose Centre, TCC = Trade Training Centre

Very Rev Chris de Souza VG EV blessing the newly constructed learning spaces at Our Lady of the Angels Primary, Rouse Hill.

Students utilising their contemporary learning spaces at St Pauls Catholic College, Greystanes.

Note 1: Accounts are prepared on a cash basis
Note 2: 2013 Financial Year covers the period from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013