MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 6 August 2012

TAFE Illawarra to Host Official Opening of Newly Refurbished Building at Wollongong Campus

The Hon John Ajaka MLC, representing the NSW Minister for Education the Hon Adrian Piccoli, and the Hon Sharon Bird MP, Federal Member for Cunningham, officially opened the newly refurbished Building H at TAFE Illawarra’s Wollongong Campus on Monday 6 August 2012 at 10am.

The project consisted of two stages. Stage 1 cost $7.1m and was funded under the NSW Government Major Works Program. Stage 2 cost $2.1m and was funded by the Australian Government. Building H is now a multi-purpose trade facility.

“This facility will support future economic and employment opportunities by providing a more effective learning environment for students in the Illawarra,” Mr Ajaka said.

Stage 1 of the project involved the refurbishment of the Metal Fabrication and Welding Workshop and teaching facilities. The new facilities will provide substantial infrastructure in response to the skill shortages in the region.

“The upgraded facility will provide the ability to offer higher level courses and more flexible delivery options in response to industry demand and curriculum requirements,” Mr Ajaka said.

The building is an enhancement of facilities to improve and expand on existing service delivery offered by the Metal Fabrication and Welding section at Wollongong Campus, as well as the upgrading of existing facilities.

“It will provide the capability to offer new higher level courses and programs in response to industry demands, as well as being able to rationalise older equipment, expand capacity for increased throughput, expand new skill set areas and increase the capacity of flexible delivery with multiple units of competence,” said Mr Ajaka.

“In addition, it will allow multiple groups to access equipment including Trade School to post trade specialist groups,” he said.

There were many benefits to the completion of Stage 2 of the refurbishment of Building H.

“The new multi-purpose facility will provide state-of-the-art facilities and equipment for the delivery of two new courses including Light Metal Fabrication and Marine Craft Construction,” Mr Ajaka said.

“In addition, the new facility will provide TAFE Illawarra with the opportunity to increase income and reduce course delivery costs through fabricating structural steel for use in the building of frames for project homes constructed under contract by the building and construction section,” he added.

Media contact: Warren Hudson 0402 087 919