



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
19 January 2006

SUBJECT: University expands in Hervey Bay

USQ Wide Bay expands with funding boost

The University of Southern Queensland Wide Bay Campus in Hervey Bay is groaning under the weight of its own success.

Since it opened in 1997 the campus has trebled in size and is about to get bigger.

The Federal Government has approved \$2 million for Stage 3 of its building program from the Capital Development Pool in 2007.

The 1500m² Stage 3 building at USQ Wide Bay will provide additional teaching space, staff accommodation, postgraduate student space, an area for student support services (health, counselling, welfare, housing, career guidance, religious observance) a bookshop and a refectory.

USQ Vice Chancellor, Professor Bill Lovegrove, said while USQ did not receive the full amount requested in its funding proposal he was delighted that with this guarantee from the Capital Development Pool for 2007 USQ would be able to start building work in June 2006.

"This development is of the utmost importance to USQ Wide Bay to enable it to cope with the high level of demand and the associated growth in enrolments at the campus," Professor Lovegrove said.

"USQ has made major inroads in improving the traditionally low higher education participation rate by residents of the Wide Bay region but the demand so far has almost outstripped the University's capacity to provide teaching and administration buildings."

The Wide Bay Campus also received a \$1.5 million boost in the Queensland State Government mini budget last year.

Premier Peter Beattie said the money would help address immediate needs as well as build a better health system for the future.

"With the funds secured from the State Government USQ will be able to expand its nursing department and better serve our nursing students," USQ Wide Bay Provost Professor Ken Stott said.

Prof Lovegrove said the extension would help the campus to meet the growing number of nursing places it was receiving.

In 2004 USQ received 15 more Nursing places, with another 41 to come by 2008.

"This development is of the utmost importance to USQ Wide Bay to enable it to cope with the high level of demand and the associated growth in enrolments at the campus," he said.

ENDS

For media inquiries contact Hervey Bay City Council Media and Communications Advisor Kevin Corcoran on 4197 4444