



## The Hon James Merlino MP

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Mental Health

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COR 2172524

David Gorrie  
Development Coordinator  
Victorian Blue Ocean Safety Skills (VBOSS) Centre  
Apollo Bay Surf Life Saving Club  
PO Box 11  
Apollo Bay VIC 3233

Dear Mr Gorrie

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Victorian Blue Ocean Safety Skills (VBOSS) Centre. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Over the past five years, the Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$9 billion in more than 1,600 school upgrades – creating more than 10,000 construction jobs – and is now ahead of schedule its commitment to open 100 new schools by 2026, with 48 new schools opening between 2019 and 2022.

I appreciate the update regarding planning and development for the VBOSS Centre. I understand that a component of the project involves the construction of group accommodation facilities at Apollo Bay P-12 College. These facilities will supplement the beachside training offered from the Apollo Bay Surf Lifesaving Club's clubhouse facilities, which are also being upgraded as part of the project.

I understand you have met several times with the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA), school leadership and representatives of the Department of Education and Training's South West Victoria Region to discuss this project. I am advised that a Community Joint Use Agreement is proposed in relation to the accommodation facilities to be located at Apollo Bay P-12 College.

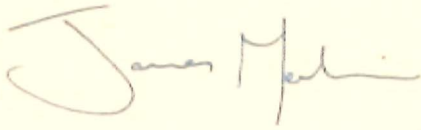
I am pleased to confirm support for the construction of group accommodation facilities at the school, in accordance with the proposed design provided to the school and the VSBA, and subject to the project being fully funded. I also note the requirement that a Development Agreement and Community Joint Use Agreement, based on the Department's standard templates, are executed.

The Government shares your organisation's commitment to the provision of quality learning environments. I look forward to the successful delivery of this exciting project.

If you would like further information, you may contact Ms Nicole Pope, Senior Manager, Property Unit, Victorian School Building Authority, Department of Education and Training, on (03) 7022 2661, or by email: [nicole.pope@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:nicole.pope@education.vic.gov.au).

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Merlino', written in a cursive style.

**The Hon James Merlino MP**

Deputy Premier

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30 / 04 / 2021

*Cc: The Hon Gayle Tierney MP, Member for Western Victoria*