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## MEDIA RELEASE

# New High School on the horizon for Goolwa

18 July 2020

Minister for Education John Gardner visited Goolwa and brought some fantastic news to the region on Saturday 18 July 2020, when it was announced that a new public high school will open in Goolwa in 2022.

The State Government will invest up to \$10 million to refurbish and upgrade the former Goolwa campus site of Investigator College, on the corner of Cadell Street and Glendale Grove. It is a massive boon for the town and wider Alexandrina region, which is one of the fastest growing areas in regional South Australia, and until now, has been in need of a public secondary school to service the townships of Goolwa, Currency Creek, Middleton, Port Elliot and surrounding areas.

Over 600 students of high school age are currently leaving the wider Goolwa region, travelling up to 50km each day in buses on rural roads with no overtaking lanes to high schools in Strathalbyn, Mount Compass or Victor Harbor. These student numbers are projected to grow strongly in coming years. By 2026, Goolwa/Hindmarsh Island will be a town of 10,000 people, with an additional 200+ school age students expected in the Goolwa /Hindmarsh Island, Middleton and Port Elliot area.

Alexandrina Council, along with support from Member for Finnis David Basham MP, has been advocating for a high school in Goolwa since 2017 when it was announced that Investigator College was closing its Goolwa campus at the end of 2018 to operate solely from its Victor Harbor location.

Alexandrina Council Chief Executive Glenn Rappensberg is thrilled with the announcement.

“Such an investment into education in Goolwa will be critical for attracting and retaining working-age families by providing access to quality secondary education, a precursor to employment, further training or tertiary education. The new school will also be a fantastic way to retain young people in the region and give them the skills they need to innovate, be engaged in a thriving regional economy, open businesses, and contribute their energy and creativity back into our community.

“I would like to thank Minister Gardner for helping secure this much needed facility in Goolwa. Council has advocated strongly over the last three years to establish a public high school in Goolwa.

“I also sincerely thank our local Member for Finnis, David Basham, who has been instrumental in supporting our advocacy efforts and encouraging this brilliant outcome. This is an exciting day for Alexandrina’s future,” he said.

Mayor Keith Parkes remarked that the announcement is one of the most significant investment to happen in Goolwa for many years given the impact it will have on our young families.

“Education is one of the keys to unlocking life’s potential and I am so thrilled to imagine the opportunities local children will have in their future now.

It will be a pleasure to see the children in our community follow their education through in this township, rather than hopping on buses and leaving town as they do now.

I thank the State Government for their commitment to education in Alexandrina and for bringing this wonderful opportunity to fruition,” he said.

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