



# **The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Thursday 28 April 2011

### **NEW INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARDS FOR NSW CLASSROOMS**

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced the rollout of 4,300 new Interactive Whiteboards to classrooms in 1,000 NSW schools.

Mr O'Farrell said the \$23 million project would ensure more students and teachers had access to the state of the art whiteboards, which have been shown to make a significant difference to education outcomes.

Mr O'Farrell, Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli and Member for Menai Melanie Gibbons made the announcement at Illawong Public School on the first day back for students after the Easter school holidays.

"Children in NSW schools should have access to the best technology to aid their learning - that is why we are installing 4,300 new Interactive Whiteboards in classrooms across the State," Mr O'Farrell said.

"This major investment in NSW schools means we are giving our students and teachers the best facilities possible to create a great learning environment.

"With this technology teachers can personalise lessons, use a variety of media and access information from online learning programs on sites such as NASA – all without leaving the classroom.

"We will prioritise this rollout to schools identified on the basis of student learning needs, where the use of Interactive Whiteboards has the capacity to significantly help education outcomes," he said.

Mr Piccoli said Interactive Whiteboards allow NSW classrooms to make the best use of the digital revolution.

"Interactive Whiteboards transform the learning process and prepare students to work in a connected, digital world," Mr Piccoli said.

"Anything that can be done on a computer can be displayed through the Interactive Whiteboard.

“Interactive Whiteboards also enable teachers and students anywhere in the State to share classes with children across the world.

“The rollout will cover every new and refurbished classroom under the Primary Schools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program.

“Funding for the rollout will be met by surplus BER funds - ensuring every last dollar NSW is entitled to is spent on educational outcomes,” Mr Piccoli said.

Ms Gibbons said the announcement was a boost for students and teachers returning to Illawong Public School at the start of term two.

“These state of the art whiteboards have transformed the learning experience for children and it’s great news that even more are to be installed across schools in Menai.”

The rollout is expected to be completed by the start of term one in 2012.