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MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW TAFE CAMPUS TO BE BUILT IN BYRON BAY

People in Byron Bay will be able to access the training they need to get a job and get ahead, with the Nationals Candidate for Ballina, Ben Franklin, today committing to the delivery of a brand new, multi-million-dollar TAFE campus.

Minister responsible for TAFE NSW, Adam Marshall, and NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet joined Mr Franklin today in Byron Bay to announce that if re-elected, the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government will deliver the new campus in the next term of Government.

“This commitment is an absolute game-changer for Byron Bay,” Mr Franklin said.

“While there are TAFE campuses in Lismore and Ballina, Byron Bay has never had a fully-fledged TAFE campus of its own, meaning locals have had to travel to complete their studies.

“But that’s about to change with the Liberals & Nationals Government set to construct a multi-million dollar new TAFE campus right here, offering locals a broad array of study options.

“It just makes sense that we would build a new TAFE to offer more residents of Byron Bay the opportunity to complete their studies and get a job, without having to travel.

“Having a new TAFE in Byron Bay is great news for the area as a whole. My top priority will now be working with the local community and Byron Shire Council to ensure we select the best possible location for this new campus.”

Mr Marshall said the campus would revolutionise training opportunities in Byron Bay.

“The new Byron Bay TAFE will allow locals to tap into TAFE’s state-wide network of campuses and courses, meaning they can access a huge range of courses that aren’t currently available, without needing to travel,” Mr Marshall said.

“People in regional areas deserve the same quality access to TAFE as their peers in the city. Today’s announcement is a significant step in levelling the playing field and giving the people of Byron Bay the TAFE they deserve.”

Mr Perrottet said the rollout of new TAFE campuses in regional NSW was only possible because of the NSW Liberals & Nationals strong economic management.

“We are investing record amounts in vital education projects right across the State, including a new TAFE campus in Byron Bay that will help turbocharge the local economy,” Mr Perrottet said.

“This will result in more young people finding jobs in the local community by equipping with them skills that are in demand from local industry and employers.

“Labor’s promises on TAFE are not worth the paper they are printed on. Under the Coalition, we have record amounts of free TAFE places and the projects to match. Under Labor, you could end up with a TAFE degree but no job.”

The NSW Government has already delivered 14 new or upgraded TAFE campuses in regional NSW since 2017. The new campuses on average have tripled course offerings (compared to an existing facility) and more than doubled student enrolments.

*** Vision available *** <https://vimeo.com/album/4997522/video/256868711>

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