



Historic connection

BY NIKI BURNSIDE

IT WAS an election promise in 2011, and now Hornsby MP Matt Kean has confirmed Galston High School will be connected to the town's sewer system.

On Friday Mr Kean, Hornsby mayor Steve Russell and Sydney Water delivery manager Mark Simister signed off on the connection.

Construction is due to start in June, part of the NSW government's Galston and Glenorie priority sewerage program.

Councillor Russell said he was "very pleased" to see the connection take place, saying he had campaigned for it since his election to council in 1999.

"One of the issues was that council had to pay a licence fee for the septic tanks," Cr Russell said.

Galston High School principal Jillian Tourlas said the connection would save the education Ddepartment between \$80-\$100K annually in service fees. Those funds will be reallocated by the department, not directly to the high school.

"At first it was just going to be Galston village that would receive sewerage but we pushed for the school to be included," Ms Tourlas said.

"This is great news for the hundreds of students and the teachers at Galston High School," Mr Kean said.

"The original PSP program only allowed properties in

the Galston and Glenorie town villages to connect into the scheme. We then negotiated with Sydney Water to extend the program so Galston High School could also be connected.

"Fixing this problem will mean that the savings can now be spent on Galston students education."

Mr Kean said the state government would contribute \$125,000 to the cost of the infrastructure and connection.

Hornsby Council is contributing the other \$125,000.

The Galston Aquatic Centre will also be connected as part of the scheme.

"This is a significant win, as on-site sewerage treatment creates a range of environmental and public health risks," Cr Russell said.

"It will also save a lot of money. For instance, it currently costs council around \$50,000 a year for pump-out services at Galston Aquatic Centre."

Sydney Water delivery manager Mark Simister said it was exciting to reach an agreement that will improve vital services for the Galston area.

"Connecting Galston High School is bringing our strategy to life, giving more access to Sydney's wastewater infrastructure," Mr Simister said.

"This is part of a wider program where we're also connecting other residential properties.

"We expect this work to

be completed by mid-year and look forward to switching it on for the school and its students, and all of the pool users."

Ms Tourlas said the construction would take three weeks and would not impact the students' schedule.



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Page 2 of 2



APPROVED: Galston High School principal Jillian Tourlas, Hornsby MP Matt Kean, Sydney Water delivery manager Mark Simister and Hornsby mayor Steve Russell.