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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **St Matthew's Catholic School, Mudgee**

Bishop of Bathurst, Michael McKenna, has approved the decision to move forward with the construction of a new secondary campus of St Matthews Catholic School, Mudgee.

This is the result of a long period of consultation and examination of various options with the St Matthew's Mudgee Capital Works Reference Group, the school management and staff, as well as the wider Mudgee community, facilitated by personnel from Catholic Education, Diocese of Bathurst.

The second campus of the existing St Matthew's Catholic School is planned be constructed on the Broadhead Road site in South Mudgee. St Matthew's will continue as a K-12 school with the K-6 campus retained on the current school site in Lewis Street.

This will be the largest investment the Catholic Diocese of Bathurst has made in the development of education in the Diocese, with a project budget of \$30 million.

Fr Paul Devitt, Episcopal Vicar for Education for the Diocese said "These are the very first steps in a long journey ahead. The project is a major undertaking and there is significant work required in planning and preliminaries before construction can begin".

"All new schools are considered as State Significant Development (SSD) and as such, require State Government approval, which alone could take up to 12 months", he said.

The Diocese will work closely with the Mid-Western Council and State Government departments to meet the necessary local and state government requirements in order to move forward.

"This is an exciting step in ensuring the future of quality Catholic education in the growing Mudgee region", said Fr Devitt.

**Ends**

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