

New \$3m campus

By MADELEINE HEALEY

A \$3 MILLION rural learning centre to be built in Glenormiston will draw 16 staff and 180 year nine students from across the state to the south-west each year.

The centre, to be built on the grounds of the former agricultural college, will be a campus of the Victorian Department of Education and Training's Alpine School, which has campuses in Dinner Plain and Marlo.

The plans yesterday drew criticism from South West Institute of TAFE chief executive officer Joe Piper and member for South West Coast Denis Naphine.

Each term Alpine School campuses accept 45 year nine students from Victorian schools into a nine-week leadership camp.

Alpine School principal Mark Reeves said construction would start on the new building early next year and it would be ready for the start of the 2009 school year.

He said Glenormiston had been chosen as the ideal site because it provided a different landscape to the school's other campuses.

"We also chose it for space, the rurality, its aesthetics, the support from the local community, the fact we can build a safe school and access to a whole range of outdoor environments that suit our outdoor education needs," Mr Reeves said.

He said the building would cover about 1100 square metres and would provide space for students to sleep, live and learn.

"It's not a huge building. We don't want to build a great big edifice. Our students tell us they like the intimacy of the building... It needs to be bright and safe."

Mr Reeves, architects and members of the steering committee met in Glenormiston to inspect the site yesterday.

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