



## MEDIA RELEASE

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**Date:** 29 May 2012. For immediate release

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**Subject:** Education Minister gets behind Maths & Science in Schools

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The Queensland Education Minister, the Hon John-Paul Langbroek today offered his support for the Transit of Venus Schools project designed to increase the awareness of Surveying and Astronomy. School students across Australia are participating in class exercises this week in preparation for the Transit of Venus next Wednesday, 6 June 2012. The exercises demonstrate the application of maths, science, geography and physics principles in understanding the world around them.

Minister for Education, Training and Employment John-Paul Langbroek said the Transit of Venus was a rare scientific event that excited young minds and captured the imagination of the community.

“The Newman Government is committed to ensuring all Queensland students have quality education opportunities, which is why Education Queensland has been strongly promoting the Transit of Venus to our schools,” Mr Langbroek said.

“I’m delighted that so many of our students will have the opportunity to share in this event that not only holds scientific importance but also has special historical significance for Queensland and Australia.

“The Transit of Venus across the Sun on 6 June is a once in a lifetime astronomical event and I have no doubt it will inspire many of our students to take a greater interest in science, history and ignite a desire to learn more about the universe.”

Significant skills shortages in Surveying and Spatial Science are being felt across the nation, similarly with other industries that draw on specialisations of maths and science. The Transit of Venus Schools project is aimed at addressing this skills shortage.

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**Media enquiries:** Graeme Rush  
Chair, Transit of Venus Committee  
graemerush@bigpond.com  
[www.transitofvenus.com.au](http://www.transitofvenus.com.au)

Danita Goodwin  
Media Adviser  
The Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP  
Minister for Education, Training and Employment  
Ph: 07 3224 5957 | Mobile: 0439 88 66 52  
Email: [danita.goodwin@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:danita.goodwin@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

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