



Opening: Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis at the opening of the new School of the Air which will provide state-of-the-art education to students.

World's 'biggest school' opens

ONE of the world's 'biggest schools' has risen from the ashes to serve students from the Wheatbelt and Mid West.

Operating over a distance of 540,000 square kilometres, the Meekatharra School of the Air will provide state-of-the-art education to students in a huge area ranging from Wiluna to Wubin and from Newman to Mullewa.

The school originally operated from Meekatharra, until it was severely damaged in a fire.

After it was damaged a second time in a subsequent fire, the school was relocated to Geraldton where the Parents and Citizens' (P&C) committee agreed that staff retention would be easier.

Staff operated from the

Beachlands Primary School while a permanent site was located and a new school was built.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis, who liaised with Education Minister Liz Constable on behalf of the P&C and lobbied vigorously for funding for the new premises, attended the opening.

He said the parents had been keen to see the original historic name retained.

Mr Ellis chairs the Rural and Remote Education Advisory Committee and said the location of the new premises adjacent to the Camp School would allow many students who usually only communicated in a virtual world to have some real world contact.

The new building currently

serves 42 students and includes information technology and communications rooms, a library, staff and conference rooms, a multipurpose classroom, studios and work and administrative areas.

Dr Constable, who opened the new school premises, thanked the Isolated Children's and Parents' Association of WA for their involvement and support throughout the building process.

"The delivery of this new building could not have been achieved without the school community of teachers, parents and students," she said.

Dr Constable also acknowledged Beachlands Primary School for housing the interim facility while construction took place.