



Dear parent/guardians,

Ecolinc's **S.T.E.A.M Ahead** program is part of the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series, an initiative of the Department of Education and Training that provides enrichment opportunities to extend high ability students in Victorian government schools so that they are better supported to excel and reach their full potential.

Your son/daughter _____ has been selected to participate in the **S.T.E.A.M Ahead 'SMART Engineering Design Challenge'** program on either September 9th or October 27th, 2026.

'SMART Engineering Design Challenge' has been designed for Years 5-6 high ability students. Dr Ben Vaughan will explain how the Centre for Organic Electronics research at the University of Newcastle's Institute for Energy and Resources have developed world-first printed solar sheeting technology for solar panels. There will be Q&A opportunities for students. A short break will be followed by an engaging hands-on session where students will unpack the science behind the new printed solar sheeting in three experiments. This workshop concludes with a design challenge where students will be imagining and applying the latest solar solution as practical renewable energy saving solutions.

This program is fully funded and therefore there is no cost to participate. The program will be delivered virtually via video conference.

Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series

S.T.E.A.M Ahead – **'SMART Engineering Design Challenge'**

I give permission for my child _____ to participate in the

VCES S.T.E.A.M Ahead – SMART Engineering Design Challenge program on either September 9th or October 27th, 2026.

I understand that this program will be delivered virtually by **Ecolinc Science & Technology Innovation Centre** (Department of Education & Training).

Parent name:

Date:

Signature:
