



The Forest High School relocation

Project update

March 2022

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 215 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

The NSW Department of Education is committed to delivering new and upgraded schools for communities across NSW. The delivery of these important projects is essential to the future learning needs of our students and supports growth in the local economy.

Project overview

The Forest High School is part of the re-zoning and planning framework for Frenchs Forest to create a new town centre for the community. The Forest High School will be relocated to a portion of 187 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights. This is located within the current intake area for The Forest High School.

Student learning will continue at the current school site until the new facilities are built.

The Forest High School relocation project will include modern flexible learning spaces for up to 1500 students; a new library, canteen and administration spaces; a multi-purpose sports and performance hall; new outdoor sports courts and landscaped recreation and outdoor learning spaces.

Progress update

A community information session was held in December 2021 to present the concept design and provide information about the project scope, design approach and timeline.

More than 80 staff, students, parents, and local residents attended and provided feedback at the event and following. The feedback indicated the school community is excited about the new school, with many questions about the project timeline and when new students can access the new facilities. School staff are interested in detailed aspects of the design for educational and operational use.

Feedback from the local community and nearby residents covered a number of topics, including how the impacts of traffic, parking, road safety, and the appearance of the new school buildings would be managed in the local area.

All feedback we have received is being considered as we continue to progress the project.

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Next steps

Preparation of the State Significant Development (SSD) application and technical studies for the environmental impact assessment is ongoing. The technical studies consider matters such as traffic, noise, ecology, bushfire and construction management.

Consultation with Northern Beaches Council, Transport for NSW and other key stakeholders is continuing as we carry out the technical studies, detailed site investigations and design development required for the planning application.

Before we lodge the SSD application, we will provide information about the outcomes of these technical studies and invite your feedback. We will also share how the design of the school has progressed since presenting to the community in December.

Planning for early works under an existing approved development application for demolition is underway. More information about the early works will be shared with community before it starts.

Frequently asked questions

Where is the project up to?

The feedback we have received from the community is being considered as we continue to progress the project and develop the State Significant Development (SSD) application for lodgement with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

As part of the SSD application, as well as the school design itself, we are preparing technical studies to consider matters such as traffic, noise, ecology, bushfire and construction management. The technical studies involve research, site investigations, surveys and assessments, data analysis, and community and stakeholder consultation, and will form an Environmental Impact Statement that is lodged with the SSD application.

Before we lodge the SSD application, we will provide the community with an update on the project and more information about the outcomes of these technical studies and how the design of the school has progressed.

Once the SSD application is lodged with DPE, it will be placed on public exhibition and the community will be invited to provide feedback directly to DPE via the project's webpage on the planning portal:

www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/42681

How were facilities selected for the school?

The facilities included in the design for the new school align with the department's Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG), which are based around the number of students to be accommodated. The Guidelines mean we are delivering school resources equitably across the state.

The layout of learning spaces and facilities have been determined in line with the Guidelines, in consideration of spatial requirements, site constraints, access and operational needs of the high school and in consultation with school representatives.

How is open space considered as part of the school design?

The Department of Education bases the selection of sites and design of schools on the Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG). The amount of open space at the new school site more than adequately caters to the number of students who will be accommodated at the relocated high school.

The design of the school has considered maximising connection with outdoor spaces, and connectivity and accessibility throughout the school site. The design seeks to retain as many mature trees and bushland areas as possible while also providing all the needs of a modern high school.

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Open spaces, including the central courtyard, the sports field and the sporting courts will be available to students during school hours. The fencing around the sports field and the sports courts will allow for security management during out of hours community use. Generous openings in this fencing will allow for easy access to students during school hours.

How will traffic and transport be managed?

We understand this is a key issue for the community.

A preliminary transport assessment was undertaken in the early stages of planning for the school. This preliminary assessment is followed by a Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment (TAIA), which is a technical study currently being prepared for the SSD application. The study analyses the existing transport network, assesses the suitability of vehicle access points and the impact of the development on the area, and sets out a draft School Transport Plan.

This complete transport assessment is being conducted, including detailed traffic surveys and modelling, and consultation with Northern Beaches Council and Transport for NSW as members of the Transport Working Group established for this project.

The proposed transport infrastructure presented at the community information sessions highlight some of the measures under consideration. This is available to view on the project webpage.

A range of infrastructure is proposed to support the school and local community including drop off and pickup facilities, bus bays, wide shared paths to remove bicycle traffic from roads, pedestrian crossings, additional signalised intersections, and 40 km/hr timed school zones.

The new high school location is supported by bus access, and active transport strategies to encourage walking and cycling will also be implemented, including providing bicycle and scooter parking at the new school.

The project team is sharing the feedback we have received with the Transport Working Group, including about the proposed location for the kiss and drop, traffic modelling, increasing pressures on the road network, pedestrian safety, parking (school and surrounding streets), location of bus stops, and shared-use paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

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