



Artist impression of the Bexhill Public School upgrade

# Bexhill Public School

## Project update

April 2021

### Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver more than 200 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

A project is underway to upgrade Bexhill Public School. The upgrade will include:

- Five new permanent, innovative teaching and learning spaces.
- Refurbishment of existing administration block and staff spaces.
- Refurbishment of the heritage community hall including works to meet accessibility requirements.
- Upgraded landscaping and sports court.
- Refurbishment of former principal's residence.

### Progress summary

Funding for planning the upgrade was approved by the NSW Government in mid-2019. That funding allowed for preliminary site investigations and development of a business case and master plan in consultation with the school.

The upgrade project received formal approval to proceed in late 2020 and over recent months we have finalised the concept design for the upgrade in consultation with the Project Reference Group (PRG).

An early contractor involvement (ECI) contract has now been awarded for the project. This enables the building contractor to work closely with the school and project team to finalise the schematic design prior to construction commencing.

We are currently investigating opportunities for carrying out early works at the school so the community can gain the benefits of new facilities as soon as possible.

### Next steps

- Finalise schematic design.
- Finalise construction staging approach.
- Prepare development application (DA) for lodgement.
- Conduct community information sessions.

### For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

### Project values



Retain the charm of the existing school



Maximise play space



Find value through multi-function spaces



Small school feel, big school opportunities



Connect to nature, vegetation and landscape views

### Concept design

The concept design for the upgrade locates new buildings around the perimeter to complete the green, school courtyard. The administration building facing Withers Street will provide a single interface point with the community and assist with security and wayfinding. The architectural approach aims to use the best characteristics of local architecture to create buildings with a domestic character and strong connection to place. We look forward to sharing the concept design with the community at information sessions during Term 2 2021.



### Timeline

We are here

Late 2019

Early planning

Late 2020

Concept design completed

Early 2021

ECI contract awarded

Mid 2021

Schematic design completed

Mid 2021

DA lodged

Late 2021

Construction commences

Late 2022

Complete

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## Frequently asked questions

### How has the design been developed?

Workshops were held with staff, students and other stakeholders to understand what kinds of learning and recreation spaces Bexhill Public School requires. These factors, together with current trends in education and learning, were used to guide the scope of work and design process.

### Where are the designs up to?

An early contractor involvement (ECI) contract has now been awarded for the project. This enables the building contractor to work closely with the school and project team to finalise the design prior to construction commencing. We are also working through the planning approval process.

### What is the statutory planning approval pathway for the project?

We are currently finalising the development application (DA) for the project. It is expected that the DA will be lodged with the Lismore City Council within the next three months. After lodgement council will place the DA on public exhibition so the community can view the documents and provide comment.

It is possible that some work at the school may be able to progress as exempt or complying development. We will keep the community informed well in advance of any work taking place at the school.

### What is an ECI contract?

ECI stands for Early Contractor Involvement, which is a method of construction contracting that allows a builder to become involved before the design has been completed. This means we enter into an agreement with the contractor to provide their knowledge and skills as a builder in the early design phases of the project. When design is finalised, the contractor may be engaged to complete main construction works.

### When will construction commence?

Construction is anticipated to commence in late 2021, following planning approvals.

### What is planned for the shared community and school hall?

The Bexhill Community Hall will be upgraded to provide accessible toilets, ramps and painting to existing painted elements. The final scope of this work and design for the hall upgrade is being developed in consultation with the Hall Trust and school.

### When will I find out more?

In Term 2 2021 we will be holding community information sessions which provide an opportunity to view the concept plans and talk to representatives of the project team.

Our website will continue to have up-to-date information about the project and we will also share information with the community via regular project updates.

We are committed to working together with our school communities and other stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students. Your feedback on this project is important to us. For more information, or to ask a question or make a comment please contact us using the details below.

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