



Artist impression of the upgrade at Birrong Boys High School (indicative only)

Birrong Boys High School

Information pack | February 2023

The NSW Government is investing \$8.6 billion in school infrastructure over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 160 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This builds on the more than \$9.1 billion invested in projects delivered since 2017, a program of \$17.7 billion in public education infrastructure.

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.

A project is underway to upgrade Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School. The project will deliver upgraded facilities, subject to development approvals, to support the learning needs of the local community. The upgrade to Birrong Boys High School will deliver:



**An upgraded
multipurpose hall**



**A covered
outdoor
learning area**



**Additional
general
learning spaces**



**New specialised learning spaces
for science, food technology and
materials learning**



**New administration
and staff area**



**Refurbishment of the
student support unit**



**Improvements to
landscaped outdoor areas**

Designing the upgrade

The detailed design of the Birrong Boys High School upgrade provides students and the broader community with an asset that enhances the learning experiences for years to come.

The upgrade to the multipurpose hall will build on the existing structure which will extend to a covered outdoor learning area (COLA) connected to the new canteen. The upgraded hall and canteen as well as landscaped outdoor areas will be available for community use in coordination with the school.

General learning spaces and specialised learning spaces will support the learning for students by providing environments that feature space, furniture and technology that support greater collaboration and improved outcomes.

Flexibility also helps teachers provide a broad range of teaching methods, empowers students to learn at their own pace and support their learning in different ways.



Artist impression of internal courtyard (indicative only)

Site maps

Ground level



Site maps

Level 1



Level 2



The statutory planning processes and next steps

We have started to prepare planning approval documentation for the project to proceed. As shared in the February 2023 project update, we are proposing to deliver the Birrong Boys High School upgrade under a variety of planning pathways, which includes exempt development, complying development, and review of environmental factors (REF).

Works proposed to happen using the REF planning pathway will include:

- alteration and augmentation of services including water, sewer and fire services, electrical services, telecommunications infrastructure, stormwater services, on-site detention and demolition of some existing structures including Building J and Building K
- ancillary works including the remediation of any contaminated material found during the works and removing some trees.

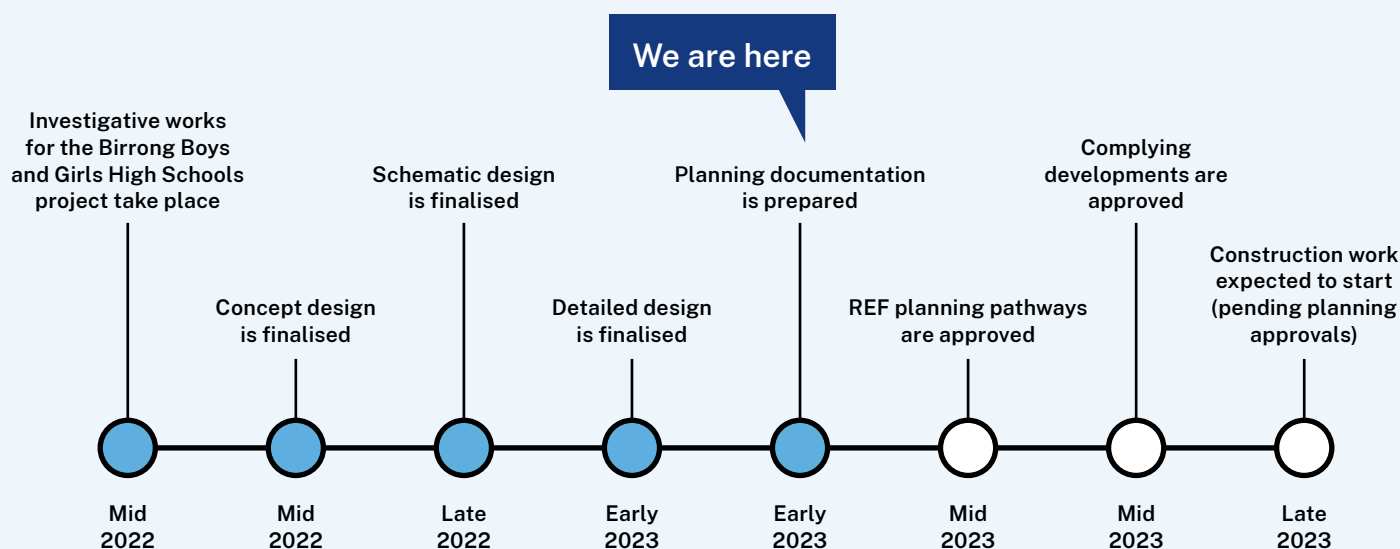
The works under this pathway will aim to get the site ready for construction and support a faster building process.

Works proposed to happen using the Complying Development and exempt development pathways include:

- construction of the new building that will house the new specialised learning spaces
- refurbishing the hall
- building the new covered outdoor learning area and canteen
- landscaping works

Once the planning documentation required to deliver the upgrade is finished and approved, we will begin the process to procure the building contractor for the works. We will keep the community informed along the way.

Timeline for planning pathways



Frequently asked questions

What are the next steps?

We will complete all the documentation required as part of the statutory planning process and procure a building contractor. Once this is done, the contractor will proceed with developing a works program and establishing the site in preparation to begin the works.

When will the upgrade be finished?

Once the design is finalised and a construction contractor is onboard, a detailed works program will be developed and we will have more information about construction start and finish dates.

We will update the community once this information becomes available.

Will there be major impacts to students whilst the work is underway?

There will be some changes to the location where lessons will be held once works begin. Student learning and wellbeing is our priority and we are working with the school leadership team to identify the best ways to minimise any disruption to learning activities during this time.

More details will be shared closer to construction beginning.

What is a Review of Environmental Factors?

In 2021 the NSW Government combined policies relating to infrastructure to create a new consolidated transport and infrastructure-based State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). The SEPP aims to make it easier to provide new and upgraded infrastructure across a range of sectors including education facilities as well as utilities and transport networks that support them. Under the SEPP some development works can be carried out without development consent from council.

Before starting the works, we need to undertake a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine whether there will be any potential impacts on the environment. As part of the REF process, a letter will be issued to some stakeholders, providing them with details of the proposed work and contact details for feedback or further information.

What is complying development and exempt development?

We are delivering some parts of the project using a classification of works called Complying Development which includes both Planning and Construction approval and is assessed by an accredited certifier rather than a local council. This pathway is used for construction of or alterations and additions to various types of buildings required for a school such as classrooms, halls and gyms as specified under the SEPP. Complying development must meet a number of pre-determined criteria to gain approval. The criteria include controls addressing height, setbacks, privacy and overshadowing to ensure impacts on the surrounding area are limited.

Some low impact components of the project are 'exempt' development under the SEPP, such as minor school buildings, alterations and minor works. Examples of exempt development under the SEPP include internal alterations, landscaping, amenities buildings, sports courts, access ramps and portable classrooms installed for up to 48 months.

Frequently asked questions

How will contamination onsite be managed?

The health and safety of the community is our priority as we work to deliver this important piece of infrastructure.

One element of our safety measures for this project is the development of a site-specific Remediation Action Plan (RAP). The RAP is developed by an independent hygienist contractor and outlines specific safety measures that must be in place to ensure the safety of our construction workers and the community.

When construction activities begin, there may be a number of safety measures implemented such as cordoning off the area with security fencing, dust suppression measures, use of a spotter, the use of personal protective equipment by site workers and air monitoring.

The community will be notified and more information will be provided once a site-specific RAP is finalised and before any activities take place.

How can I stay informed?

You can sign up to the project's mailing list by using the contact us form on the project page for the Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School upgrade. You can find the page by going to the SINSW website and using the search function in the home page.

Contact us



Website

Stay up to date by visiting the School Infrastructure NSW website
schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing
schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Phone

Contact us between 9 am and 5 pm,
Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**