



# Blakebrook Public School

Project update | December 2023

## Project overview

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding flood impacted schools in the Northern Rivers region, ensuring we build back better with more flood resilient schools for local students and local communities.

As part of this commitment, a project is underway to rebuild Blakebrook Public School.

The project will deliver new modern flood resilient classrooms and school facilities, including a library, canteen, and administration areas. It will also include landscaping, tree planting, an undercover learning area and yarning circle.

## Progress summary

- An information session was held on 26 October 2023 for staff, parents and school neighbours to share the concept designs and masterplan for the rebuilt school.
- Detailed design has now been completed through the Project Reference Group (PRG). This includes classroom layouts and landscape design. To make the rebuilt school flood resilient, the new school will be raised to include an under-croft area, which will also improve the school's playground layout and provide an all-weather learning and play space.
- The school is finalising its choice of new furniture for the classrooms, library, and administration areas.
- A Development Application has been lodged with Lismore City Council for the demolition of existing school buildings.

## Next steps

- School Infrastructure is continuing to work with approval authorities, including Lismore City Council, to understand planning requirements that may affect building heights and approval timelines for rebuilding Blakebrook Public School.
- Once this is confirmed a planning application will be lodged for construction of the new school buildings.



## Arrangements for 2024

At the information session in October 2023, we advised that temporary school buildings at Blakebrook Public School would need to be moved to allow for demolition of the existing buildings and construction of the new school. This would have considerably reduced play space for students and extended the construction timeline.

As communicated to staff and parents on 5 December 2023, Blakebrook Public school and staff will instead move to facilities at Goolmangar Public School from Day 1 Term 2 2024 while Blakebrook Public School is rebuilt.

Goolmangar Public School currently has no enrolments and is therefore vacant and available for use. Over the coming months the facilities at Goolmangar Public School will be inspected and prepared for use by students and staff. Additional temporary buildings, including an amenities block, administration building and classroom, will be installed at the Goolmangar Public School site before Blakebrook students move.

Moving to the Goolmangar Public School site will allow teaching and learning to continue with minimal disruption, in a quieter setting, with full playground areas, including a bike track.

It will also keep students and construction separate, which will reduce interruptions to schooling from building activities, including demolition and asbestos removal. Working on a vacant site will allow us to provide a better playground design to be fully ready for when Blakebrook Public School students and staff return to their new school.

The Department will work with the school and feedback from staff and parents to make the transition as smooth as possible. We will provide more detail in Term 1 2024.

## Holiday working hours

School Infrastructure NSW will be closed from 5 pm Friday 22 December 2023 to 9 am Monday 8 January 2024, inclusive, in line with the NSW Government shut down period. You can continue to contact us during this time, and we will get back to you after we return. In an emergency, please call triple zero (000).

Thank you for your patience during this important project.

