# Blakebrook Public School Project update | November 2024



#### Investing in our schools

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

Funding for the school projects has also been provided by the Infrastructure Betterment Fund, which is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

### **Project overview**

A project is underway to rebuild Blakebrook Public School after it was extensively damaged by flooding in 2022. The project will deliver an elevated single level building supported by a flood resilient steel structure. All core facilities will be on the first floor, connected by undercover walkways. The ground floor consists of amenities and an undercroft play space for students, as well as new landscaping that is connected to Country.

## **Progress summary**

- On site construction started in October and was celebrated with <u>a sod turning by school</u>
  <u>leaders and staff</u>. You can watch the NBN story <u>here</u>. Photos from the event are on the next
  page.
- Groundwork is in progress, along with the installation of the screw piles that will support the new school facilities, and excavation of the lift pit.
- As mentioned in our <u>October update</u>, we have salvaged and stored timber and other materials, including floorboards and sash windows, from the original Blakebrook Public School buildings for reuse by the department at Blakebrook or at other local schools where possible. Important school items, including murals and The Great War Honour Roll, are being kept safe and will be restored before their return to the new school.



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 As part of our Connecting with Country consultation, a Walk on Country was held with the Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee (AECG) and Aboriginal community on 19 November 2024.





Caption: Blakebrook Public School students and staff celebrate the start of construction of their new school

#### **Next steps**

Once ground works and piling are complete, the structural steel gantry will be installed, followed by delivery and installation of the building modules, school fit out, services connection and landscaping.

We will also collaborate with the school to start developing materials as part of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

We expect the new school facilities to be completed during Term 2, 2025, weather permitting. We will keep the school community updated as construction continues.

#### More information



You can find more information about the project at <u>edu.nsw.link/BlakebrookPS-</u>FloodRecovery or by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions about this project, you can contact School Infrastructure during business hours on the contact details below.

