

Blakebrook Public School

Project update | October 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.

Project overview

As part of this commitment 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.



New library



4 permanent classroom and multipurpose learning spaces



New canteen



New administration area

Progress summary

- The NSW Government has used its enhanced planning powers to approve the rebuilding of Blakebrook Public School under the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022. [Read the Government's media release.](#)
- Demolition of the flood affected school buildings continued during the school holidays and is almost complete. In accordance with our DA conditions (DA 5.2023.337.1), the demolition was



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supervised by our heritage specialist and guided by our Salvage and Reuse Management Plan. All salvaged items and materials, along with movable heritage pieces, will be catalogued, restored (where required) and stored. Items such as sash windows and floorboards will be salvaged and reused or stored by the department after inspection by our hygienist. Any remaining materials will be recycled.

- Off-site manufacturing of the school modules and steel gantry is complete.



Removing the Great War Honour Roll



Completed Blakebrook PS module

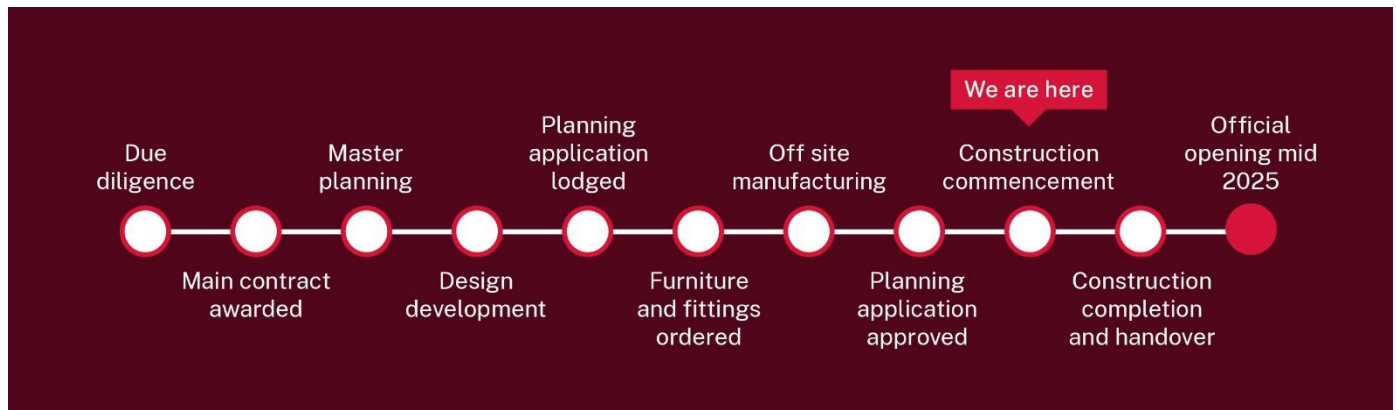
Next steps

Now that planning approvals are in place we are working to rebuild Blakebrook Public School as quickly as possible. Based on the rebuilding of Empire Vale and Wardell Public Schools, we expect construction to take 6-7 months, weather permitting.

This includes:

- demolition
- completion of stormwater, ground works and inground piling;
- delivery and installation of the steel gantry and school buildings;
- school fit out;
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and services connection;
- landscaping.

We are expecting to complete the new flood resilient Blakebrook Public School during Term 2 2025, weather and site conditions permitting. We will keep the school and community updated about the completion dates as construction progresses.



Heritage Interpretation Strategy

As part development consent to remove the existing school buildings, Lismore City Council approved our Heritage Interpretation Strategy, for Blakebrook Public School.

Important school items, including murals and signage are being kept safely to relocate at the rebuilt school. The Great War Honour Roll has been removed under the supervision of heritage consultants and will be cleaned and refurbished by specialists before being installed safely back at Blakebrook Public School. Some salvaged materials will also be re-used onsite as part of the Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

Workshops were held with the school during Term 3 to inform the next stage in the strategy, which is now being finalised by our heritage consultants. We will work with the school and interested parents during Term 4 to develop materials recommended in the plan.

Parking reminder

To minimise disruption and traffic congestion at the Blakebrook site at pick up and drop off times:

- A new undercover student waiting area will be ready during Week 1 Term 4 (see map below).
- Contractor parking is now in place within the construction zone (see map below).
- The parent kiss and drop zone is clearly defined (see map below).
- Site deliveries and major work will be co-ordinated to avoid the morning and afternoon bus times as much as practicable.

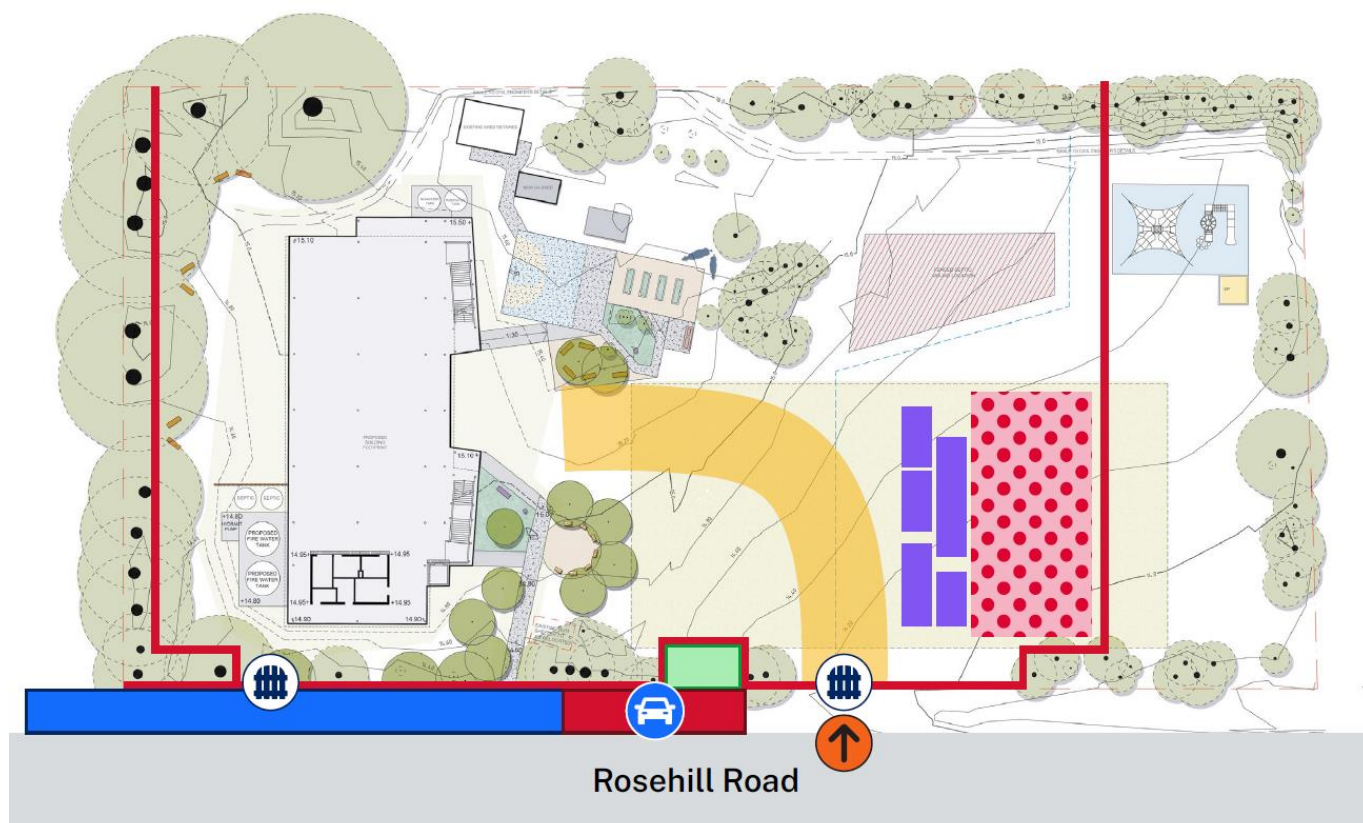
While we are working to minimise construction impacts during school pick-ups and drop offs, some congestion may be unavoidable as we rebuild the school. Parents who are meeting the school bus are asked to pick up their children as quickly and efficiently as possible. Children can also be dropped off or picked up directly from Goolmangar.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.









Working Hours

We will keep the community and neighbours updated during the construction of the new Blakebrook Public School facilities. Standard working hours are 8am to 6pm on weekdays and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Site map



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Student waiting area |  Site road |
|  Kiss and drop |  Site buildings |
|  Bus drop off zone | |
|  Construction fencing | |
|  Contractor entrance | |
|  Site parking | |
|  Contractor gate | |

More information



You can find more information about the project by scanning the QR code.

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