



Artist's impression Broadwater Public School (subject to change)

# Broadwater Public School

Project update | June 2024

Dear parents/carers and staff,

The Department of Education is committed to rebuilding Broadwater Public School so that students can return to their school as quickly as possible.

The rebuilt Broadwater Public School will be more flood resilient so that students can return to face-to-face learning at their own school as soon as possible. The rebuilt school will include a raised building that will house modern flexible classrooms. The design also includes a library, canteen and administration area.

## Development approval

As previously communicated, we met with the [Northern Regional Planning Panel](#) and Richmond Valley Council during the school holidays (16 April 24) to discuss the project. You can find the record of the meeting, as well as the DA documents and our supporting reports and on the [NSW Government's Planning Portal](#).

As part of the assessment process, Council issued a number of RFIs (Requests for Information). We have now submitted our responses to all RFIs. This included information about the school location, the height and resilience of school buildings, and evacuation plans. We also included a risk assessment, compiled by cross-government agencies and experts, which identifies the risks and controls associated with returning to the site. The assessment highlights the significant improvements incorporated into the site, from resilient design to evacuation controls.

At the request of the Broadwater Public School P&C, letters from the P&C and school supporting the school rebuild as a matter of urgency for students and their families, have also been provided to Council.

Once Council has reviewed our RFIs, they will commission a peer review of our flood reports and evacuation plans. Following the peer review, Council will finalise their assessment and organise another meeting with the Regional Planning Panel for their determination of the DA.

## Buses

The Department has spoken to Transport NSW and Ballina Buslines, who have agreed to shorten travel times for Broadwater Public School students while they are learning from their temporary school at

Evans River Community School. The change will mean morning buses will travel directly from Broadwater to Evans Head and then on to Woodburn Public School which will ensure students from all three schools arrive on time. Ballina Buslines will notify families from all schools with more detail shortly.

### Temporary school site at Evans River Community School

The Department has worked with Evans River Community School to review playground arrangements for students during their breaks. The school will communicate directly with students and parents about proposed changes to better accommodate Broadwater Public School students.

### Keeping you informed

We understand how important it is to keep school parents and staff informed throughout all stages of rebuilding your school. We will provide regular updates through the school and our [Broadwater Public School Flood Recovery project page](#). If you have questions or concerns you can also contact us via 1300 482 651 or [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.gov.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.gov.au).