

Upgrades to Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School

Frequently asked questions

October 2020

Who was awarded the design and construction contract?

The design and construction contract was awarded to Richard Crookes Construction. The contract includes completing the design of the new facilities and constructing the new Building R at Chatswood High School.

The construction contractor for the main works will be confirmed in early 2021.

When will construction start?

Enabling works and site investigations started in the October school holidays and will continue until Day 1, Term 1, 2021 to prepare the Public School and the High School for construction. Temporary demountable classrooms will be installed at the High School for Public School and High School use during construction.

Construction of the new Building R at Chatswood High School is anticipated to start in late 2020 following receipt of a complying development certificate.

Construction of the main works will not start until the outcome of the State Significant Development application is known.

Why is the Public School being split between the Pacific Highway and Centennial Avenue campuses during construction?

Chatswood Public School is currently in a campus configuration with Years K-2 and Years 5-6 located on the Pacific Highway campus, and Years 3 and 4 on the 'Bush Campus' on the grounds of Chatswood High School. The Bush Campus was established to address enrolment demand using demountable classrooms.

In consultation with the school principals and contractor, several different construction staging options were considered.

During construction, Chatswood Public School will continue to operate across both the Pacific Highway and Bush Campus, with the number of students located at the Bush Campus temporarily increasing.

What Chatswood Public School year groups will be located on the Bush Campus during the construction phase?

From Day 1 Term 1 2021, Years 3-6 will be located on the Pacific Highway Campus, and Years K-2 and the Multi-Categorical Support Unit will be located on the Bush Campus.

Class locations have been determined by the Principal and executive with consideration given to the size of each year group, the required classroom sizes, and ease of access to safe play space.

The Bush Campus also has three options for safe drop off and pick up for Years K-2 students and the Eddy Road entrance provides easy access for Assisted Travel.

How will students access the Bush Campus?

The existing stairs from Centennial Avenue to the Bush Campus and oval will be altered to include a temporary walkway. The walkway will create a bridge over the Oliver Road entrance to provide safe and continued access to the Bush Campus and oval while trucks are moving to and from the Building R construction zone.

While the walkway bridge over Oliver Road is being constructed, the Bush Campus will be accessible from Freeman Road and at times Eddy Road.

The Oliver Road school entry will be unavailable from late 2020 until late 2021 while Building R is being constructed.

How will you separate Chatswood High School and Bush Campus students?

During construction, Chatswood High School and the Bush Campus will operate in much the same way as they do now.

Recess and lunch breaks will be staggered to minimise overlap between High School and Public School students.

Teachers from each school will wear different coloured high-vis vests when supervising students for easy identification.

Temporary fencing will also be erected around the Bush Campus demountables to provide further separation between the two schools.

How will the High School oval be used?

The school executive teams will discuss school access requirements to ensure teaching programs and play space needs are met.

Outside-of-school-hours bookings and full field use will also continue to be available.

Where are the outdoor play areas?

Outdoor play areas will temporarily change while construction is underway.

On the Pacific Highway campus, students will have access to two covered outdoor learning areas (COLAs), astroturf and play equipment. More play space will be provided following the demolition of the existing Public School Hall.

On the Bush Campus, students will have access to the oval and a covered outdoor learning area (COLA).

High School students will have access to the oval and one sports court and other landscaped areas.

Where are the Kiss and Drop zones?

There will be no change to the dropping off zones. The dropping off zone will remain on Centennial Avenue.

Will staff car parking be available?

No. Staff car parking will be temporarily unavailable at both schools.

The High School car park off De Villiers Avenue will be unavailable until late 2022. Construction of the new Public School staff car park will be completed in late 2021.

The schools are within close proximity to the Chatswood travel interchange and are easily accessible by public transport.

Onsite staff car parking will be reinstated at both schools following the completion of construction works.

Where will the Out-of-School-Hours-Care (OSHC) program be located during construction?

The Public School OSHC service will continue during construction.

As the existing Hall at Chatswood Public School is scheduled to be demolished in early 2021, OSHC will be accommodated in classrooms.

The Public School Principal will provide the school community with more information towards the end of Term 4 2020.

Where will the extracurricular activities be located?

Extra- and co-curricular activities will continue while works are underway.

The Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School executive teams are reviewing the existing extracurricular and co-curricular timetables and venues and will provide more information to students and parents/carers towards the end of Term 4.

Where are the temporary canteens located?

The High School canteen will be located in a fit-for-purpose demountable on the sports court.

The Public School canteen on the Pacific Highway campus will be located in a fit-for-purpose demountable on the site of the existing Public School Hall. The Hall is anticipated to be demolished in early 2021. A canteen will also be located on the Bush Campus and service orders for Bush Campus students.

Where are the temporary student toilets located?

Chatswood High School - temporary toilets will be installed on the staff car park and sports courts. An accessible toilet will be installed on the sports court.

Bush Campus - temporary toilets, including an accessible toilet, will be located on the northern end of the oval.

Pacific Highway site - following demolition of the existing Public School Hall, temporary toilets will be installed onsite. An accessible toilet will continue to remain open in Building A.

How will the demountable placement affect existing trees?

The project team is aware of the importance of working with the topography of the land and preserving the existing tree canopy. The demountable locations have been carefully selected to minimise possible impacts to existing trees and birdlife and have been finalised following discussions with Willoughby Council.

Is Council approval needed for the demountable installation?

No. The demountable classrooms are being installed as exempt development.

What are the construction hours?

Work will be completed from Monday to Saturday, 7:00am and 6:00pm in line with the current NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development – Construction Work Days Order 2020).

This is to allow workers to abide by social distancing rules during the COVID-19 pandemic by distributing work across the week. There will be no work on Sundays or Public Holidays without prior notification.

How will you ensure public safety during construction?

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring that work is completed safely and efficiently and with minimal impact to the local community.

Rigorous safety and security measures will be in place for the duration of the works. This will include fencing off the construction area and installing surveillance systems. There will be no access to the construction area by staff or students.

The project team would regularly consult with the school to discuss construction progress. All safety concerns will be addressed. The health, safety and well-being of students, staff and neighbours is our highest priority.

How will traffic be managed?

The Department of Education is aware of existing traffic congestion on Centennial Avenue and surrounding streets during peak times.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan was prepared as part of the State Significant Development (SSD) application to outline measures to be taken during construction to ensure public safety. The plan includes, for example, consideration of the current pick-up and drop-off zones, construction vehicle movements, potential amendments to existing street signage and traffic control procedures.

Disruption to the local community will be minimised by a number of mitigation strategies, including:

- Movement of materials will take place where possible within the site boundary
- Contractor deliveries will be loaded and unloaded within the site compound to avoid disrupting traffic
- Traffic controllers will be in place where required.

What will you do to minimise noise and dust during construction?

Noise levels on site will be managed in accordance with the noise control guidelines that are outlined in the EPA Environmental Noise Control Manual for construction and demolition works. Noise will be kept to a minimum as best as possible during the construction period. We will provide advance notice of work to the local community, particularly when we anticipate high noise generating works.

Dust as a result of demolition and construction works will be hosed down as required.

Will the removal of asbestos be required?

Yes. The health, safety and well-being of students, staff, contractors and our neighbours is our highest priority. We know asbestos containing material is present on the site. All known and suspected asbestos is recorded in the school's asbestos registers.

The removal of asbestos will be completed prior to the commencement of works. Notification will be provided to surrounding residents and the school communities when removal is planned.

The removal of asbestos is managed in accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan and Safe Work NSW by licensed and accredited asbestos removalists and occupational hygienists. It will be managed in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

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