



A completed School Infrastructure NSW project

Concord High School

Project update

November 2022

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$8.6 billion in school infrastructure over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 160 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This builds on the more than \$9.1 billion invested in projects delivered since 2017, a program of \$17.7 billion in public education infrastructure.

The NSW Department of Education is committed to delivering new and upgraded schools for communities across NSW. The delivery of these important projects is essential to the future learning needs of our students and supports growth in the local economy.

Project overview

The NSW Government is increasing its investment in public education infrastructure, with an upgrade to Concord High School announced as part of the 2022/23 NSW Budget. School Infrastructure NSW has undertaken a needs analysis and considered demographic trends for the local area to ensure the right project is delivered for the community.

The project is in planning stage and requires a business case to be approved by NSW Treasury to determine the full scope of the upgrade, but it is anticipated the upgrade may include additional contemporary learning spaces, upgraded and new core facilities, and landscaping.

Progress update

The final stages of the business case are being prepared before submitting to NSW Treasury for approval.

It is anticipated some refurbishment work of existing buildings and classrooms will be part of the budget to upgrade the school. Planning of these works is underway, with details and timelines to be provided following business case approval.

In our recent survey of students, staff and parents, we identified a number of key areas of importance to the school community. Key themes are identified on the next page.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
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www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Survey key themes

Here is an overview of how we are addressing the key themes raised in the survey.



Accessibility and inclusion

Our survey results show accessibility was important to all, but especially important to the student community. The school upgrade will be welcoming, fully accessible and will have good wayfinding, and is designed in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act for equal access. The upgrade will include a lift, ramps, and accessible bathrooms in the new buildings.

Additionally, the upgrade will include a new Special Education Learning Unit (SELU) which will have classes to cater for students with a range of needs including learning difficulties, behavioural and physical disabilities. The design ensures that no matter what students are enrolled, it provides equal access and opportunity for all users regardless of ability. These learning spaces will be flexible to cater to the varying needs of students into the future. It is expected there will be a sensory garden in the landscaping plan.

The upgrade also looks at opportunities for school facilities to be shared with the community outside of school hours.



Access to parking

Access to parking for staff and visitors was a common issue raised by parents and staff with a number of suggestions. We can advise that arrangements for suitable parking – on or off site – is being investigated.



Connecting to Country

Guided by the principles of the NSW Government's Connecting with Country Framework, we aim to ensure that the strength, diversity and richness of local Aboriginal cultures and Custodianship of Country are respected, valued and embedded throughout the design of the upgraded high school.

To achieve this, we have conducted research and held a walk through with a local Aboriginal elder to inform the concept design. A series of workshops will be held with the local Wangal community, the broader community and our student representatives to share on the best way to reflect Concord's Wangal heritage in the design.



Covered outdoor areas and walkways

We understand the importance for covered areas for shade and weather protection to the school community. The new buildings and landscaping are designed to provide additional cover, shade and opportunities for utilisation for curriculum and recreation alike. The new hall will likely provide spill-out hanger doors which will also allow the area in front of the hall to be used as a cover for bad weather. Covered connecting walkways will be provided between buildings and covered bike parking will be provided in some areas.



Easy ongoing maintenance

All aspects of the school upgrade are being designed with easy ongoing maintenance in mind.

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Effective use of space

Several options have been explored during the master plan phase that take into consideration the arrangement of buildings, easy access and entry to facilities, the height of buildings, good connection to and complementing existing teaching facilities, and connections to the outside of the school for future public use.

All interior spaces will be designed to be flexible and adaptable to the learning needs of students in the future. Amenities such as toilets will be placed to maximise space and supervision.



Green space and landscaping

An appreciation for the existing vegetation at Concord High School was clear from the survey results. The landscaping design for the school grounds will recognise, protect and enhance the existing special visual qualities and natural environment already at Concord High School.

The landscape strategy for the school is being developed to create external spaces with opportunities for social and play spaces, outdoor learning and recreation. They will be accessible and connected, attractive and appealing, biodiverse supporting existing ecological networks, promote activity, health and wellbeing and have a community benefit. The heritage and landscape value of the trees on site are important and there will be minimal impact to existing trees at the school.



Modern, technology rich, and aesthetically pleasing learning spaces

All our new schools and school upgrades are designed to be aesthetically pleasing by achieving a built form that has good proportions and a balanced composition of elements.

Flexible and modern learning spaces are central to the design of the school upgrade. Flexible learning spaces are designed and equipped to support contemporary learning and teaching. This includes varied furniture for student choice, comfort and flexibility, and technology integrated into spaces to extend learning opportunities, with specialist equipment available for students to innovate, communicate and create.

Learning environments in the upgrade will feature space, furniture and technology to support greater collaboration and improved learning outcomes. They can support students with many ways of learning. In addition to this, new specialist spaces feature equipment so students can learn practical skills for future careers.

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Other projects happening at Concord High School

There are several ongoing minor works projects and maintenance works happening at Concord High School. The project team is also working to ensure the current minor works taking place at the school are considered (where possible) in the design for the upgrade project. Routine maintenance will also continue as usual.

The following work has been completed:

- The Library (Building A) roof and ceiling replacement.
- Recreational space incorporating table tennis tables, handball and volleyball.
- Painting, replacement of carpet and various pin and notice boards in C-Block.
- Bird netting installed in the COLA.
- Repair of concrete joints in the COLA and canteen areas.
- Pressure cleaning of concrete surfaces.

The following work is currently underway:

- Installation of the P&C funded BBQ area. Due to be completed by end of Term 4 2022.
- Upgrade to the student toilets.
- New roof for B Block.

The following work is due to start soon:

- Covered shade structure and tiered seating for the sports oval.
- New roof on Building B & D.

Cooler Classrooms

Concord High School is part of the Cooler Classrooms Program, a \$500 million, five-year program announced in 2018 to provide sustainable reverse-cycle air conditioning and ventilation to improve learning environments in schools across NSW. It is part of the NSW Government's record investment in public school infrastructure and is in addition to the government's \$1.3 billion asset maintenance program.

The works for Cooler Classrooms are currently in the design stage which assesses the needs for the school.

For more information and FAQs about the program, please visit our website edu.nsw.link/CoolerClassrooms.

LED lighting upgrade

Concord High school is getting a LED lighting upgrade. This is part of a NSW Government commitment to sustainability and lowering the energy consumption across our schools. The LED Lighting Upgrade Program (LED LUP) commits \$157.8 million to replace inefficient lights with new LED lights, in up to 1,000 public schools across NSW over a two-year period.

The works for the LED LUP at Concord High School are currently in the procurement stage.

For more information and FAQs about the program, please visit our website edu.nsw.link/LEDLighting.

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