

An example of the innovative learning spaces we are delivering for students across NSW

Darlington Public School

Project update

December 2019

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$6.7 billion over the next four years to deliver 190 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW.

In addition, a record \$1.3 billion is being spent on school maintenance over five years. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

Darlington Public School

An upgrade of Darlington Public School is being planned to accommodate projected growth of the school population. The project will deliver

- new flexible learning spaces
- a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA)
- pre-school spaces
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC)
- a new hall
- a new canteen
- a new library
- new administration and staff facilities, and
- upgraded play areas and landscaping

The site, local area characteristics and cultural heritage are being respectfully considered in the design process.

Project progress

In July 2019, the previous preferred concept designs underwent a School Infrastructure NSW independent peer review followed by a Government Architect NSW review as part of the project governance process. The outcome of the review lead to the appointment of a new architect, new project team and the design and development of new masterplan options.

The feedback gathered from community consultation prior to the review, including heritage and arborists reports, were handed over to the new team to ensure project continuity.

In August 2019 two information sessions were held for the school and local community to obtain feedback on four masterplan options.

The project masterplan was endorsed at the November 2019 Project Reference Group meeting and will now go to the Executive Steering Committee for endorsement. These endorsements provide the approval required to complete the next phase, concept design, by late December 2019.



Early artist's impression of Darlington Public School upgrade

Your feedback – October Information Session

In October 2019 an information session was held. The session included a presentation by the lead architect about the progression of the masterplan, with interactive workshops to seek feedback about art and landscaping in the design and an opportunity to speak with the project team.

The main feedback themes included:

- **Landscaping** including ideas for sustainability, such as solar energy, community, food and rooftop gardens, green walls, shading and consideration of wildlife, trees and water. Ideas for play space areas covered many usages and needs for age-specific groups.
- **Design** feedback indicated a preference for organic lines to soften hard spaces, a modern but not clinical feel and connecting the library building into the landscaped areas.
- **Artwork** was a key talking point with feedback focused on identifying and retaining existing art and including space for new art. The use of photography, digital mediums and canvas was suggested as ways of acknowledging artwork unable to be relocated.
- **Transport** and access issues focussed on undercover bike and scooter parking, pram access, and pedestrian flows during drop off and pick up times and in wet weather. Traffic safety feedback concerned the proximity of the pedestrian crossing to the roundabout, requests for a kiss and drop zone and places for parents to wait near the school gates.

- **Concept design** updates were provided with positive feedback about how plans had progressed. Natural light, overshadowing and privacy were highlighted. Incorporating Aboriginal culture into the design remains a major consideration and the architects have been provided with a previous report prepared by heritage consultants, GML Heritage.
- **Out of Schools Hours Care** (OSHC) located in the school hall needs to be considered in relation to equitable access for alternative activities or school events. Please note that the Educational Services and Facilities Guidelines (ESFG) must also be met in determining the location of the OSHC and canteen.
- **General feedback** had a strong focus on sustainability, green technology and carbon neutrality. The need for music and performance spaces were highlighted and there were other comments which relate to school operations such as supervision of school toilets.

Thank you for your feedback

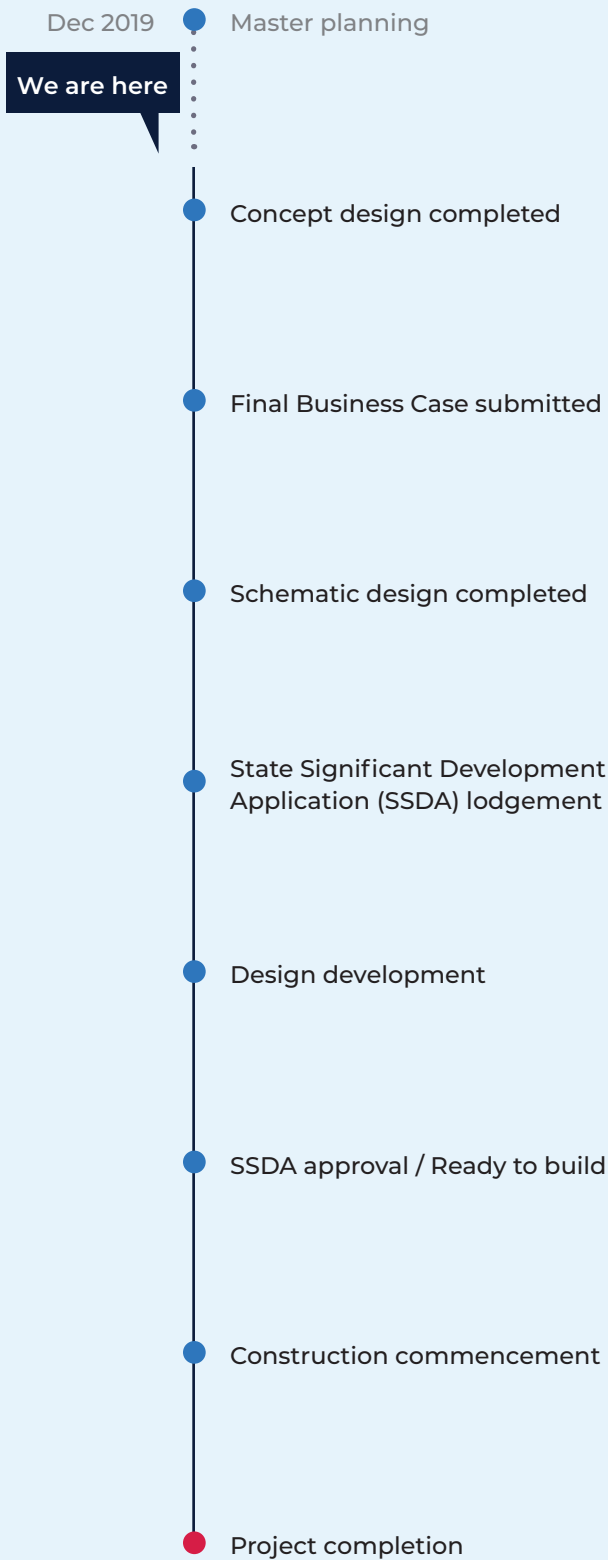
We appreciate the feedback we have received through the information sessions and other channels.

Your recent feedback and suggestions for the draft concept design options, as well as landscaping and school artwork have been highly valuable. The architects have considered all suggestions to ensure, if and where possible, they are addressed in the design.

Project process overview

There is community interest in understanding the current status and next steps of the Darlington Public School upgrade project. An indicative timeline is provided below.

Indicative timeline



Each phase of the project runs sequentially and must be approved through a process of recommendation by the Project Reference Group (PRG), Project Control Group, if applicable, and then approved by the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) before we can proceed to the next phase.

Master planning is a development framework for a specific site and considers strategic options for the general size, shape and form of buildings on the site.

Concept design considers the inter-relation of spaces, such as the proximity of a school hall to a canteen area.

Schematic design finalises the organisation of interior layouts and exterior spaces, and structural support systems such as roofing and utilities.

A final business case must be prepared and approved for the project to proceed.

A State Significant Development Application (SSDA) is a Development Application that is lodged with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). An SSDA has an exhibition period during which time the community can make a submission. Construction can only proceed once the SSDA is approved.

Construction commencement

School operations will continue as is throughout 2020. Construction is not expected to start before the end of Term 4 2020. The building program allows for a 24 month construction period including completion of a staged construction approach if required.

Site staging and school operations

The construction approach, known as the delivery methodology, will be developed as part of phase 2 concept design planning.

Every option to keep the school operational on site will be considered before we begin to consider options to move to an off site or 'pop up' school location.

The safety and wellbeing of the school and local community is our highest priority before any other consideration. The delivery methodology will also consider, but is not limited to, potential conflicts between school operations and construction, the operating environment for the school, construction impacts such as noise and dust, space for children, and the ability to control the surrounding environment during construction.

The delivery methodology decision is still under consideration, however, SINSW will keep the school community informed about plans at the earliest opportunity.



Early artist's impression of Darlington Public School upgrade

Next steps

We expect to proceed with schematic design then design development phases in early to mid 2020.

The SSDA for the project is expected to be lodged with the DPIE in mid 2020. This process will follow the guidelines for SSDAs set by the DPIE and will include an exhibition period to enable the community and public to make any submissions.

Construction is not expected to start before the end of Term 4 2020. This will allow sufficient time for school operations to plan accordingly. These dates are, however, subject to change.

Stay informed

We expect to provide further information about the construction approach in February 2020.

Please stay informed via project updates, school newsletters and local advertising. You can contact us if you have any questions or comments about the project.

For more information contact:

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