



Schools at the Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct

Project update

May 2020

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$6.7 billion over four years to deliver more than 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.

Schools at the Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct

A project is underway to relocate Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School to the Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct, following the construction of new facilities.

The Meadowbank Education Precinct will cater for 1000 primary school students, 1500 secondary school students and a further 120 Intensive English Centre students.

The new school facilities will house the separate primary school and high school in multilevel, multi-purpose buildings connected with play spaces and landscaped areas.

Next steps

Site establishment and remediation work will begin from June 2020.

The remediation will include the removal of hazardous materials in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

It is anticipated that this work will be carried out over three months.

Following the remediation work, early construction work will begin, including earthworks, piling and the installation of in-ground services.

Nearby residents and businesses will be notified separately prior to work starting.

Accelerated assessment

The State Significant Development (SSD) application for this project was fast tracked by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). The SSD was approved on 21 May 2020.

This means that once site remediation has taken place, we can move quickly to start early construction works as soon as August 2020.

This is an exciting step towards the construction of the new facilities.

As early construction works take place, we will continue to work closely with each school community and the school Principals to finalise the detailed design of the school facilities.

Key dates:

- Remediation works start June 2020
- Early construction works start August 2020
- Main construction works start late-2020
- New facilities completed late-2021

Frequently asked questions

Answers to some of the most frequently asked questions during the community information sessions are provided below.

Why has the planning approval for this project been fast tracked?

Four schools are among the first wave of projects that will have their assessments fast tracked.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) made decisions on the State Significant Development (SSD) application for the first tranche of projects on 21 May 2020. This will mean the projects can get underway sooner and the overall construction pipeline can continue to grow.

Does this mean the usual checks and community consultation will be waived to fast track the projects?

The assessment process is being accelerated, not changed. The usual planning rules and policies will apply, and all projects will be assessed under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Will the community still get to have a say on projects that are being fast-tracked?

All of the projects being fast tracked have completed the substantive planning work and are post the exhibition and community consultation phase. School Infrastructure NSW will continue to engage and inform the community throughout the project.

Due to the need to meet requirements under Public Health Orders, a range of digital engagement tools will be used to communicate with the community and stakeholders to seek any comment or feedback. This will include digital project updates, online sharing of information session material, the School Infrastructure NSW website, community information line and mailbox.

Feedback from Community Information Sessions

During November 2019, we held a number of community information sessions at Meadowbank TAFE, Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School to provide an update on the project and information about the State Significant Development (SSD) application.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit our information sessions, consider the SSD or make a submission. We appreciate your interest and input into the project.

Why are the schools moving?

The student numbers at both Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School have increased in recent years. Each school has ageing facilities that do not meet the needs of their growing population.

This project provides the opportunity for each school to move into modern, flexible learning facilities that cater to increased student numbers.

Will the school catchments change when the schools move location?

At this stage, there is no intention to change the catchments of the schools. School operations will remain the same following the move. This includes their existing catchment areas. Any future change to catchment areas would be determined by the Department of Education as part of normal procedures in response to changing demographics.

Will school operations change?

The existing Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School will be moving to new facilities. Operational decisions will continue to be made by each school, led by their respective Principals.

We have worked closely with each school to ensure that the new facilities meet their needs, and will continue to do so throughout the detailed design process.

Will the schools share facilities?

The separation of the school facilities has been a priority during the design process, based on stakeholder concerns and a focus on student safety.

Each school will have separate facilities including school halls, libraries and canteens. The schools will have separate entrances, separate outside play areas, and each school's perimeters will be fenced.

Community feedback

Other feedback received during the community information sessions is being considered during the detailed design phase.

This includes items such as traffic and parking, pedestrian access, capacity of the Meadowbank Public School out of school hours care service, and facilities such as lockers and bike racks for Marsden High School students.

Keeping you informed

We are committed to working together with our school communities and other stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students and we will continue to keep the local and school communities updated as the project progresses.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au