



## Meadowbank Education Precinct Frequently Asked Questions

The growing community in the Meadowbank area is set to receive brand new, purpose built education facilities on part of the Meadowbank TAFE site.

### **What is being announced?**

The growing community in the Meadowbank area is set to receive brand new education facilities that will transform part of the TAFE NSW Meadowbank site.

TAFE NSW Meadowbank will be transformed into the State's first technology focused TAFE campus and will sit alongside a new K-12 school.

Meadowbank Public School will be relocated to the new education precinct which will cater for up to 1000 primary school students. Marsden High School will also relocate to the new precinct which will cater for up to 1500 secondary students.

### **Why is the NSW Government planning to build a new education precinct in Meadowbank?**

The NSW Government is always looking at ways to improve teaching and learning facilities, and in the 2017 Budget we committed to building a new school in the Meadowbank area.

The new education precinct at Meadowbank will provide contemporary learning and teaching facilities to accommodate the fast-growing student population in the area, which is forecast to increase dramatically over the next decade.

### **What will happen to TAFE NSW Meadowbank?**

TAFE NSW Meadowbank will be transformed into the State's first technology-focused TAFE campus and will sit alongside the new K-12 school. TAFE NSW Meadowbank will continue to operate on the site, so that the Government is providing primary, secondary and tertiary education facilities in the one precinct.

### **How will the co-location of primary school students and high school students be managed?**

The care of students is always our top priority.

Education precincts are not uncommon and they present many advantages for students and their learning, particularly their transition from primary to secondary education. The precinct design will take into account student safety while at the same time allowing for educational partnerships between the two schools and, where appropriate, between students and TAFE NSW.

### **Why were Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School chosen as the foundation schools for the precinct?**

Meadowbank Public School is on a small site that is already near capacity. Similarly, Marsden High School is expected to experience significant growth in student numbers in coming years and it will be increasingly difficult to accommodate more students in modern facilities due to the aging condition of buildings that are not easily upgraded.

### **Why not upgrade and expand the existing schools?**

The original school on the site of the existing Meadowbank Public School was officially opened as an Infants School in 1950. It is on a small site that is already near capacity and we know the student population is forecast to increase significantly over the next decade.

At Marsden High School, some of the buildings need to be upgraded, and their design is not easily able to be modified to foster more flexible, future-focussed learning.

By building new facilities on another site, we avoid disruption to the staff and students at both schools and maximise the opportunities for innovative design and educational partnerships with TAFE NSW.

### **What will happen to the existing school sites once staff and students move to the new precinct?**

The existing Marsden High School site will become a sporting facility primarily catering for netball, while the current Meadowbank Public School site will become public open space once the move is complete.

### **Where will the new education precinct be located?**

The new education precinct will be located along Rhodes Street in the northern area of the TAFE NSW Meadowbank site.

### **When will construction of the new schools start?**

Construction of the new schools is expected to start in 2019 after we have consulted with the community and received all the necessary construction approvals.

### **When will construction of the new schools be completed?**

It is planned that the construction of the education precinct will be completed in 2021.

### **What consideration will be given to students in Year 12 in 2021?**

Supporting Year 12 students in 2021 will be a very high priority. We are planning a detailed transition process to minimise impacts to all students and will provide many opportunities for students to get familiar with their new learning environment.

### **What will happen to the roles of the two principals and teaching staff at both schools, as well as office staff and general assistants?**

All our permanent staff will be able to move to the new site. No permanent staff member will lose his or her job as a result of the relocation process.

### **When will the NSW Department of Education share the plans for the new schools?**

There are no plans for the new schools other than what has been announced. The school and broader community will be engaged as plans for the site are developed.

### **Who is designing the new schools?**

Architects, Woods Bagot, have been engaged to prepare the design of the schools at the new precinct.

### **Who and what is driving planning for the new schools?**

New schools are planned in line with the Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines. Project governance includes a Project Reference Group, made up of key stakeholders. Engagement with parents, students, staff and the wider community will provide the project team with information that will inform the planning process.

### **Will the history of Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School be honoured?**

Suitable recognition of each school's history is a very important aspect of the planning process and the project team is committed to ensuring that the heritage and legacy of both schools are honoured. Current and past students, staff and parents will be invited to work together to identify aspects of each of the school's traditions that need to be incorporated into the new precinct. Respect will be shown for school archives, honour boards and other significant items and these will be housed in the new schools in appropriate locations.

### **Will staff, students and parents at Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School be consulted about the design of the new education precinct?**

Yes. There will be many opportunities for staff, students and parents, as well as neighbours and the local community, to provide input into and feedback on the design of the schools.

#### **For more information contact:**

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