

# Mona Vale Public School

## Frequently asked questions

May 2021

The NSW Government is investing \$7 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver more than 200 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

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.

We are in the process of designing an upgrade to Mona Vale Public School. The project will deliver:

- A new Block R building containing 6 learning spaces and 3 support classes
- Upgrading and refurbishing Blocks B, D, E and H
- A new Block S Performing Arts Centre
- A new staff and administration space within Block R
- Removing Blocks C and G and improving open space and connectivity throughout the school for all students

### Why will there be less classrooms as part of the project?

The new classrooms as part of the project will be a more appropriate size for students' learning at Mona Vale Public School.

Even though there are fewer classrooms, the classrooms are built as innovative learning spaces which means there is more space for practical and activity-based learning.

### How big will the Performing Arts Centre be?

The new Performing Arts Centre will provide space for an audience of approximately 200 seated visitors and will provide theatre performance space and a space for music rehearsals and dance performances. The performance space will complement the existing school hall and provide dedicated performing arts space for the school and community.

### How will the Performing Arts Centre work?

School Infrastructure NSW are working with Northern Beaches Council to fund and deliver the Performing Arts Centre to be located at the school. Once complete, the performance space will be available for use by the school and wider community.

### Why are you removing trees as part of the project?

We are proposing to remove some trees on the school site to accommodate the new buildings and upgrades. We recognise the important role that trees play on the school site and we will preserve as many as possible as part of the project. We will also be planting new trees as part of the extensive landscaping phase of the project.

We have applied to Northern Beaches Council to remove some trees as part of the project. To find out more information about the tree removal and have your say on our development application, please visit the Northern Beaches Council website: [www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development](http://www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/planning-and-development).

### Will you be preserving heritage features of the school?

We recognise the many heritage features of the school that celebrate Mona Vale Public School's legacy and history, and we will continue to work in close consultation with the Principal to preserve the heritage features on the school grounds.

### How will the project be sustainable?

We acknowledge the important part that sustainability has in the construction and lifecycle of new schools and facilities. We will be targeting 4 star Green Star accreditation for this project which is a Green Building Council of Australia certification that rates how sustainable a facility is.

In addition, solar panels will be installed on Block G. Solar panels are designed to absorb the sun's rays as a source of energy for generating electricity, and will help the school save energy.

### **What happens to the materials from the buildings and items that will be removed?**

In keeping with our commitments to sustainability, we will investigate options to recycle and repurpose all materials we remove as part of this project.

### **Why have the temporary classrooms been relocated?**

As part of the project, it has been necessary to install additional temporary classrooms on the Northern boundary of the school site. The additional temporary classrooms have been installed and the existing demountables on the South Eastern corner of the site have been removed. This is in order for the new Block S Performing Arts Centre to be constructed in the South Eastern corner of the site. Please be aware these are only temporary classrooms, and it is anticipated some of these classrooms will be removed at the conclusion of the project when construction has finished.

### **How have you consulted with the community during planning for this project?**

A Project Reference Group (PRG) has been operating for over a year since the project's early planning phase; a project governance group made up of the project team, teachers representing the new school and parents of students representing the parent community of Mona Vale Public School. The project consults with the PRG who provide key information from an operational, educational, change and logistics perspective into the planning through the design phase of the project.

### **When will construction start?**

Construction on the Mona Vale Public School upgrade is expected to start in mid 2021.

### **How will school functions operate during construction?**

The project and its construction has been designed to ensure there is minimal impact on the school, including any school functions that may be held during this time. There will be regular consultation with the school to discuss any functions that may operate, and measures will be put in place to ensure construction impacts are minimised.

### **How will dust and noise be managed during construction?**

Any activity that could exceed approved construction noise management levels will be managed in accordance with the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. Noise will be kept to a minimum as best possible during the construction, and dust as a result of demolition, will be hosed as required. The site will undergo periodic air monitoring and noise and dust will be appropriately managed throughout construction in accordance with the project's consent conditions.

### **How will traffic impacts be managed during construction?**

During construction, contractor access to the site will be through Waratah Street for work to Block R and Emma Street for the Performing Arts Centre and refurbishment work. Movement of construction vehicles will be planned to be restricted at drop-off and pick-up times to limit congestion around the school, and traffic control measures will be in place where necessary.

### **How will the school community be kept safe during construction?**

The safety of the school's students, staff, visitors and the local community is our highest priority. Construction planning will be designed so there is minimal impact on school operations. Safety measures will be in place to separate the construction site from areas occupied by the school and ensure students are unable to enter construction areas. There will be regular consultation with the school to discuss construction progress.