

Murwillumbah East Public School

Project update | November 2024

Investing in our schools

As part of the NSW Government's plan to rebuild public education, the 2024-25 Budget is delivering record education funding, including \$1.4 billion for new and upgraded schools in regional NSW. This targeted investment will ensure growing communities get access to a world class public education.

In response to feedback from parents, students, staff and the community, the NSW Government is committed to retaining four public schools in Murwillumbah and providing high-quality facilities for teaching and learning.

Project overview

In response to strong community feedback, and detailed analysis, the NSW Government has amended its plans to deliver a flood levee bank and will instead build new permanent facilities at Murwillumbah East Public School, including new classrooms, a new library, canteen, and facilities for specialist support classes.

The project will reinstate spaces that were lost when two buildings at the school had to be demolished following flooding in 2017. It will also allow for all demountables to be removed from the school.

Progress update

Work is now underway to plan for the new facilities, including:

- Meeting with school leaders, staff and the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) to share information and discuss community priorities and perspectives so these can inform the design process
- Engaging technical specialists to carry out a site survey as well as geotechnical and structural assessments
- Conducting preliminary flood and bushfire assessments to help determine the most appropriate statutory planning approach for the project.

Next steps

- From early 2025 we will be working with flood and bushfire specialists as well as architects to start designing the new facilities
- Community information sessions will be held in Term 2 2025 to share concept designs with students, staff and the community for feedback.



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Delivering immediate improvements

While planning is underway for the new facilities, work is continuing to deliver immediate improvements at the school.

This includes refurbishment of a number of rooms in Block B which started in September 2024 and is now complete. The rooms have been fully refreshed with new paint, floor coverings, furniture, fittings and equipment.

The school will also receive all new energy efficient LED lighting throughout and ventilation and air conditioning upgrades for classrooms which don't currently have it.

A flood resilient school

The department is committed to providing high quality, flood resilient facilities for the Murwillumbah East Public School community. One option considered to achieve this was extending the flood levee near the school.

The department has worked with technical experts and stakeholders to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of a levee extension with respect to flood protection. Engagement included meetings with the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Tweed Shire Council to discuss possible levee locations, potential impacts on surrounding areas, and outcomes of the hydrological engineering assessment.

Following these discussions, it was determined that extending the flood levee did not present the best outcome in terms of flood resilience and facilities for the school community.

Instead, planning is underway to design and construct new, flood-resilient facilities that will be raised above the ground or sited on less flood affected parts of the school site. This approach has been adopted successfully at other Northern Rivers schools being rebuilt on flood prone land, including Empire Vale Public School and Wardell Public School.

More information

You can find more information about the project at edu.nsw.link/MurwillumbahEastPS-Upgrade or by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions about this project, you can contact School Infrastructure during business hours using the contact details below.

