



Murwillumbah Education Campus

Project update | December 2021

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 215 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.

Project overview

We are planning for a new primary school and a new high school which will be located on the same campus at the current Murwillumbah High School site. This project will enhance public education in Murwillumbah by supporting contemporary teaching approaches and providing students with access to new, modern, flexible learning environments and facilities.

Design update

The concept design for the campus was presented to the community at a virtual information session in September 2021. Thank you to those who visited the virtual room and provided feedback.

Over recent months we have also held a number of workshops to seek input from the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, local Elders, Aboriginal teachers, students and community members, regarding how local Aboriginal heritage, culture and identity can be appropriately represented within the campus. The outcomes of these workshops are informing the design process.

The project is now coming to the end of the schematic design phase which has involved consultation with school principals and staff about the adjacencies of learning spaces. Looking ahead, we will continue to work with the schools to choose the furniture, fixtures and finishes for the schools and campus, as part of the detailed design process.

For more information contact:

Email: murwillumbaheducationcampus@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 482 651

Website: edu.nsw.link/MEC

Statutory planning

It is expected that the State Significant Development (SSD) application for the project, including architectural drawings, landscape design, and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) in 2022. The SSD application will be placed on public exhibition on the DPIE major projects website.

Subject to public health orders, we are planning to hold another Community Information Hub in Knox Park during the public exhibition period so the community can drop in and view the plans, provide feedback, or have a conversation with the project team and local educators.

Campus principals announced

In November 2021, the department announced that Joanna Henderson, who is currently principal of Murwillumbah East Public School, has been appointed principal of the future combined primary school at the campus, and that Peter Howes, who is currently principal of Murwillumbah High School, has been appointed principal of the future combined high school at the campus.

The principals will move into their new roles from Day 1 Term 1 2022 and relieving principals have been appointed to manage the day-to-day operation of Murwillumbah East Public School and Murwillumbah High School from the beginning of 2022. Appointing the principals well ahead of the start of campus operations will allow them to focus on strategic planning, school policy development and other school readiness activities.

Peter says he is most looking forward to working closely with students, staff and parents to develop a school culture that is inclusive and engages and extends every student. "The campus offers amazing opportunities and potential, including a chance to take a fresh look at learning so we are meeting the needs of our students in a truly dynamic school," he said.

Joanna says she feels privileged to be able to continue the work that the four schools have already begun to align priorities in curriculum, wellbeing and other priority areas. "All four schools have been collaborating for close to 12 months now and I appreciate the approach, enthusiasm and commitment displayed by our teams," she said.

Temporary accommodation of Murwillumbah High School during construction

As part of the project, Murwillumbah High School will need to move out of existing buildings so they can be demolished to make way for the new campus buildings and facilities. Following consultation with students, staff and parents, as well as consideration of a range of other practical, operational and educational factors, it has been decided that Murwillumbah High School students and staff will move to Wollumbin High School from Day 1 Term 1 2023.

Bringing the two high schools together will allow for alignment of learning structures, collaboration between teachers and the establishment of a new, shared identity and culture before transitioning to the new campus high school together as one in 2024. It will also keep students and construction separate, to enhance safety and avoid distractions to learning for Murwillumbah High School students.

The department will continue to work with students, staff and the parent community to plan for a smooth and well-managed transition to the new arrangements that prioritises student and staff wellbeing and learning.

New school names – have your say!

Following consultation with key school stakeholders, a shortlist of names has been developed for the Murwillumbah Education Campus and the new schools that will be built there. To have your say on the proposed new school names, scan the QR code or complete the online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/22LZ2CM. The survey will be open until Tuesday 1 February 2022.



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