

# Murwillumbah Education Campus

## Frequently asked questions

September 2021

### **What information is there that the Murwillumbah Education Campus will deliver a better learning experience for students?**

One of the primary objectives for investing in the Murwillumbah Education Campus is to provide students and teachers from all public schools in Murwillumbah with access to new, flexible learning environments that better support contemporary teaching approaches.

Contemporary learning and teaching means teachers choose from a wide-range of strategies to meet the personalised needs of students and build the skills and capabilities needed to become successful lifelong learners.

Flexible learning spaces enable teachers to easily adapt and transition between the most appropriate learning experiences for students. This includes but is not limited to, explicit learning, collaboration and hands-on project learning.

The physical learning environment, such as air quality, temperature, light and good acoustics has a significant impact on student learning outcomes.

Flexible spaces that can adapt to accommodate different group sizes, learning activities and teaching practices, have been shown to impact on how teachers foster deep learning for students. This means building strong creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication skills as well as being actively curious about learning.

Other benefits of contemporary learning environments include:

- Increased student engagement, including school attendance
- A higher sense of student well-being
- Ongoing professional support for teachers through collaborative teaching.

While other options such as upgrading or amalgamating only some of the schools in Murwillumbah might deliver improvements for some students, investing in a single campus offers the best opportunity to provide new facilities and enhanced education outcomes for all public school students.

For further information and research about contemporary learning and teaching and flexible learning environments, refer to the School Learning Environments and Change section at [education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au).

### **What is the concept design?**

The concept design is the outcome of the second of four design phases. It provides an update on how the design has progressed since the master plan was presented to the community in March 2021.

The concept design process is about working with stakeholders to further consult on and test the high level master plan to ensure we have the buildings, learning spaces, and facilities in the right locations to meet educational and operational needs. It also explores important functional requirements such as pedestrian flow and accessibility throughout the campus.

It is important to note that the concept design is not the final design. It will be subject to change until the design process is completed and development consent has been granted for the project.

### **What has changed since the master plan?**

The most significant change from the master plan is that the campus will now be 95% new buildings with only the heritage building (Block A) and agricultural spaces (Block F) being retained and refurbished. This has allowed for a building layout that works more effectively with the topography of the site and provides more usable open space. It will also extend the lifespan of the schools without the need for upgrading older spaces in the future.

# NSW Department of Education

The 'front door' of the campus has also now moved from Riverview Street to Nullum Street. This was in response to feedback from various stakeholders including Tweed Shire Council, around managing traffic around the entrances to the site.

Separate pedestrian entry points have been identified for the primary and high schools to maintain separation between age groups. Facilities likely to be used by the community, including administration offices, health facilities and halls, can now be accessed without having to enter the remainder of the site, providing improved security.

The campus parade, which was initially intended to help students navigate between the Riverview and Nullum Street entries, has been replaced with a number of accessible pathways that comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements and will provide under cover access to all buildings.

The building that will house the high school and primary school halls, and the areas around it, provides a new 'heart' for the campus.

## **What is the current proposal regarding shared facilities?**

The concept design includes provision for separate primary and high school learning spaces, outdoor areas, halls, canteens, administration offices, support units and libraries.

The primary and high school hall will be located in separate areas of the same building.

The school community health facilities will be available to both primary and high school students and their families.

Whether the schools choose to share other facilities through timetabling can be determined by the principals once the schools and campus are operational.

## **How does the indoor and outdoor space at the campus compare with what is available currently across the four schools?**

The amount of indoor and outdoor space at the campus will be different to what exists at the four schools now, however quantity of space is not the most relevant or useful way of evaluating the many benefits the campus offers.

The campus will provide modern, high quality learning spaces to comfortably accommodate students from all four schools and allow for the delivery of a broad curriculum.

The number, type and size of learning spaces required has been determined based on the projected maximum demand for student places to 2036 and allows for additional growth beyond those projections.

It also complies with the NSW Department of Education Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG), which have been put in place to ensure all schools across the state receive a consistent and fair allocation of internal and external education facilities based on their current and projected number of enrolments.

At the new schools, students will learn in spaces that consistently meet current standards for minimum room size, flexibility of operation, and integration of technology.

The campus will provide a substantial allocation of outdoor space over and above department guidelines. The landscape design process offers the opportunity to maximise the usability of outdoor space and address community priorities identified through the community survey, including provision of open grassed areas and landscaped areas with shade and seating.

## **How will the schools and campus accommodate future growth?**

The campus is being designed to accommodate current and forecast student enrolments to 2036 within the current catchment areas of the four existing schools, and allow for additional growth.

Through the concept design process locations have been identified where additional learning spaces can be added in the future if required.

The core facilities at the campus, such as administration, libraries and canteens, will be sized to accommodate additional students should extra permanent learning spaces be added at a later date.

## **What is the status of the school community health facilities?**

What services the school community health facilities will offer and how the facility will operate are still being determined in consultation with stakeholders.

The concept design for the campus identifies a dedicated space within the heritage building (Block A) that can be used to establish these facilities.

Murwillumbah High School and Murwillumbah East Public School have already been participating in a pilot program where a Wellbeing and Health In-reach Nurse comes to the school to help students and their families access health and social services.

The school community health facilities at the campus will provide a space that could be used for these types of programs and for the introduction of other services that are of value to the school community. The service model for the facilities will be determined in consultation with stakeholders.

### **Where will the OSHC be located?**

Out of school hours care (OSHC) facilities, including a school care office, kitchenette and general activities area, are proposed to be located in the building containing the primary school hall.

In NSW public schools, OSHC services are operated by external providers under the Department's Community Use of School Facilities Policy.

### **How will transport be managed?**

Effective transport planning and safe transport management is a key priority for the NSW Department of Education and all School Infrastructure NSW projects.

The Murwillumbah Education Campus offers opportunities to enhance existing transport networks and infrastructure at the Murwillumbah High School site to meet projected transport demand and to mitigate local traffic impacts.

As part of the design process we are working with a transport consultant and stakeholders, including Tweed Shire Council, to finalise the transport strategy and plan for the campus. This includes assessing how the existing bus interchange on Nullum Street could be enhanced for the campus and broader network.

The concept design reflects the current proposed location for the main drop off and pick up area, however this is still being discussed with stakeholders.

The final transport management plan will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) as part of the State Significant Development (SSD) application process for the project.

### **Where will parking be located?**

The quantity and location of parking will be identified through the next stage of the design process - schematic design. The proposal regarding parking will be included in the SSD application for the project and will be assessed by DPIE, in consultation with Tweed Shire Council, as part of the statutory planning approval process.

### **How will the student transition to the campus be managed?**

Local Directors of Educational Leadership are currently working with principals, teachers and other staff to develop an integrated transition road map.

The transition process will be carefully planned and managed to support student learning and wellbeing. The priority will be on continuity of learning, especially for Stage 6 students, students at significant transition points, and students with additional support requirements.

### **How will the department support the development of a positive culture at the new schools and campus?**

The culture of a school is built through the collective commitment and action of staff, students, the community and the NSW Department of Education.

The intent from the department is that "every student is known, valued and cared for" and also that "every student, every teacher, every leader and every school, improves every year". Individual schools, including the Murwillumbah Education Campus, also set their own vision and values based on local context.

The foundations for a positive, student-centred culture at the new schools and campus will be led by senior executive and will include policies, processes and programs to ensure student wellbeing and positive behaviour management. Every member of the school community will be responsible for evidencing the values of the schools and campus, and the culture will be built by the actions of every staff member, the behaviour of every student, and will be supported by the wider school community.

Forums for building collaborative professional relationships are already established, and a shared educational vision and values have been developed for the campus.

The four principals of the current Murwillumbah schools meet regularly and are engaging with principals of other similar schools to explore opportunities to enhance learning and teaching across the K-12 continuum.

Combined staff development days have been held with a focus on improved pedagogy and staff are having input into the educational, operational and infrastructure aspects of the project through a structured consultation process.

As the project progresses we will continue consultation with staff, students, parents and carers to develop a shared understanding of culture.

All four principals see the opportunities this project offers for their staff and students and are leading their communities through the change process.

### **What is the process for naming the schools and selecting uniforms?**

Murwillumbah Education Campus is only the working name of the infrastructure project to design and build the campus.

The name and uniform for the new schools and campus will be selected in accordance with NSW Department of Education policy. It is recognised that adequate time is required when transitioning to a new uniform and issues such as affordability will be considered.

At this stage it is anticipated that these processes will commence in early 2022 to provide adequate time prior to transition.

### **What will happen to the other school sites?**

No decision has been made on the future uses for the three other schools sites once the amalgamation project has been completed. School Infrastructure NSW is committed to consulting with the local community and working with the local council as part of the project on the future uses for these sites.

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

Email: [murwillumbaheducationcampus@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:murwillumbaheducationcampus@det.nsw.edu.au)

Phone: 1300 482 651

Website: [edu.nsw.link/MEC](https://edu.nsw.link/MEC)