

New high school in Bungendore

Frequently asked questions

March 2021

Site location

What site has been selected?

- The new high school will be located in the Majara/Gibraltar Streets precinct.

How was this site selected?

- A 12-month site due diligence process was undertaken.
- Over 1000 hectares of land was assessed.
- Each site was assessed based on its suitability to support the needs of the project. This included availability of services such as sewerage, electricity, and roads, the accessibility of the site and environmental constraints such as bushfire, ecological impacts, and flooding.
- A public expression of interest (EOI) was initiated as a site was not initially found that met the needs of the project.
- Three submissions were received for proposed locations through the EOI process, these were investigated thoroughly and unfortunately, also found to not be suitable for this project.
- Following the due diligence process, the Majara/Gibraltar Streets precinct was identified as the most suitable location.
- Consultation also occurred with Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) and 18 stakeholder groups, who utilise Mick Sherd Oval.
- The preferred site has many advantages as it is:
 - well situated being in the centre of town with excellent access to the core population of Bungendore
 - has multiple street frontages for easy access
 - allows for the potential for shared facilities with the rest of the community
 - is next to the local primary school, which allows for the creation of a co-located educational campus.

Are there any restrictions on proximity to railways for schools?

- In building a high school near a railway line, the following guidelines will be considered: Development Near Rail Corridors and Busy Roads - Interim Guideline.

Will this site be adequate for future school growth?

- The planning work currently undertaken includes the development of a master plan that considers expansion for future growth to accommodate projected enrolments to 2036.
- Additional enrolments anticipated due to the new arrangements from ACT Government, for NSW students attending Canberra public schools has also been taken into consideration.

Please see the link below for more information
<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/nsw-resident-enrolments>.

- Possible future expansion, if required, has been accommodated for in the current Majara/Gibraltar Streets precinct. This would be subject to a separate review and approval process. Any future expansion will not negatively impact Mick Sherd Oval.
- As outlined in the master plan, the area north of the QPRC building has been reserved for a possible future expansion of the school. This is shown as a red area and is denoted as N09 on page 4.

What is happening to Mick Sherd Oval and Bungendore Park?

- Consultation has occurred with QPRC and several stakeholders of Mick Sherd Oval.
- There will be a low fence to separate the school grounds from Mick Sherd Oval. Mick Sherd Oval will not be fenced and will be available to the community for use outside of school hours.
- This green space will be available to the public outside of school hours, and available for community events.

NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

- As part of the new high school development, Mick Sherd Oval will be straightened and be line marked
- The War Memorial will still be openly accessible at all times.
- The Balladeers Place Memorial and rotunda is proposed to be relocated to Frogs Hollow Reserve, Tarago Road.
- The existing pool is reaching the end of its useful life and will be demolished to make way for the new highschool hall. A new pool will be built at the new Bungendore Sports Hub by QPRC.
- We will carefully consider the needs of the community and stage the project so as to remove the existing pool with the least amount of inconvenience.
- As part of the proposal, the Department of Education will contribute capital funds to QPRC specifically towards the development of the new pool.
- The Department of Education will continue to investigate as part of the due diligence process if there are any historically significant trees.

What rezoning is required for this location?

- The Majara/Gibraltar Streets precinct is a mixture of titles under differing ownership structures.
- The site includes land owned by QPRC and land owned by Crown Land, which is currently dedicated to QPRC.
- A rezoning is required for some of these areas to permit the construction of the high school.

Project overview

What will this project provide?

- This project will provide the following:
 - a new high school with modern facilities to accommodate approximately 400 students
 - new learning spaces for the growing student communities at Bungendore
 - new facilities available for shared and community use
 - upgraded facilities at Bungendore Public School
 - constructing a new playing field at the primary school, and amenities block and flood lighting
 - new classrooms to replace the existing demountable classrooms within the primary school

- new community library and carpark
- new council shop front and community centre
- updated storage facilities for the scout hall.

- The new high school buildings will not exceed two storeys.

What is the proposed enrolment and catchment area?

- The Department will confirm the school catchment area closer to the school opening using the most current demographic data.

When will the new high school in Bungendore be open?

- It is planned that the new high school and upgrades to the public school will be open for students on Day 1 Term 1 2023, subject to planning approvals.

What is the status of the Abbeyfield aged care facility?

- Discussions with Abbeyfield, QPRC and the Department of Education have identified a suitable site for Abbeyfield Aged Care facility on Turallo Terrace adjacent to the scouts building. This site is dependent on the closure of Majara Street being approved.
- The Department of Education will pay a capital contribution to Abbeyfield Aged Care facility for all expenses required to redesign the facility on the new site.

When will the community be able to comment on the Development Application?

- When the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) is lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) the community can make formal submissions. It is anticipated this will be lodged mid-2021.
- We will advise the community when the SSDA will be on public exhibition.

What is happening to the existing community library and the Bungendore Community Centre?

- The existing community library and Bungendore Community Centre are being relocated into a new building on Turallo Terrace.
- The new Bungendore Community Centre will replace the existing 40-year-old facilities.

School facilities

What upgrades are happening to the primary school?

- As part of the plan for a new high school at Bungendore, the Department of Education is also upgrading facilities at Bungendore Public School.
- This includes new permanent classrooms and the construction of a new playing field within the existing primary school site.
- This new playing field at the Bungendore Public School site will include a full Oztag sized improved turf surface, a new amenities block and flood lighting.
- This new asset will be shared with the community, and will be available to the broader community outside of school hours.
- The additional playing field will supplement Mick Sherd Oval, and the new multi-million dollar Bungendore Sports Hub delivered by QPRC.

Is there a hall at both schools?

- Yes, there will be a separate hall at both the primary and the high school.

Is the new high school hall able to be booked for community and theatrical events?

- The Department of Education has a dedicated partnerships and joint use team who are responsible for working closely with local councils and community groups for joint use opportunities of school facilities.
- It is proposed that the new high school hall can be used for community and theatrical events, potentially including a canteen that could be used for catering purposes, subject to Department and School agreement.

Will the high school open for only years seven and eight in 2023?

- As the project progresses, the Department of Education will determine what years the school will be open to from day one.
- The build will be completed with facilities for all years for Day 1 Term 1 2023, subject to planning approvals.

Traffic management

What is being done in regards to traffic management at the new school?

- As part of normal school project planning processes, additional traffic studies have been undertaken. Please find a summary on the [project webpage](#). The full traffic study will be submitted as part of the SSDA.
- These studies include pedestrian footpaths, bus bays, parking and kiss and drops to both the primary and high schools.

Where will the access for both schools be located?

- The high school will have a new administration building located on Gibraltar Street, across the road from the primary school.
- This building will be shared by both the primary and high school.
- A pedestrian crossing will connect the primary and high school sites.

How will the traffic change with this new site?

- The transport assessment has found that there will not be any negative impacts to traffic caused by the school being built at this site. Please find a summary on the [project webpage](#).
- The project includes the diversion of Majara Street (between Turallo Terrace and Gibraltar Street) to the east of the current the council building to accommodate school related traffic.
- The transport assessment has found the Bungendore road network is in a grid pattern and has sufficient capacity, hence the diversion of Majara Street will not adversely affect traffic because there are various route options to travel.

Local sports hub

What is happening with the Bungendore Sports Hub and swimming pool?

For more information go to: <https://www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/Major-Works-Projects/Bungendore-Sports-Hub>

