

# New high school in Jerrabomberra

## Key Project Information

November 2021

### About the project

The Department of Education has lodged a State Significant Development (SSD) application to provide a new high school in Jerrabomberra.

The high school is to be located within the Poplars development area in Jerrabomberra and is in proximity to David Madew Oval to the southeast.

### What the project will deliver

The new high school will have modern facilities to accommodate approximately 500 students and will include:

- 25 flexible learning spaces including 3 support learning spaces
- Library
- Multi-purpose hall
- Sports courts
- Covered outdoor learning area
- Outdoor space
- Canteen
- Administration facilities

The new high school in Jerrabomberra will be a years 7 to 12 comprehensive high school.

Learning spaces will be built to enable teaching of subjects offered by secondary schools to enable students to receive their Record of School Achievement or Higher School Certificate. The school will also offer vocational education and training (VET) programs. For more information, visit the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) website: [www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home](http://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home)

While the learning spaces have been designed to accommodate approximately 500 students, the design of the new high school anticipates the need for possible future expansion with core facilities sized to facilitate expansion if necessary.

The project is expected to result in around 100 jobs during construction, and 44 teaching and administration positions when the school is operational.

The new high school will be completed in 2023, subject to planning approvals.

### Flexible learning spaces

The new high school in Jerrabomberra is designed to enable modern teaching methods.

Learning and breakout spaces are designed with large, glazed sliding doors to provide connections and opportunity for flexible learning environments that can accommodate individual classrooms or opportunities for collaboration between classes.

The project has also been designed to consider a whole of life cycle approach, with the school site and masterplan allowing opportunity for expansion and connectivity if additional learning spaces are required in the future.



Artist's impression looking from an elevated view above the quadrangle to learning spaces and the school administration. A covered outdoor learning space (COLA) is on the right. Indicative only and subject to change.

## Delivering education in Jerrabomberra

### The proposed enrolment and intake area for the new high school

The Department of Education will confirm the school intake area closer to the school opening using the most current demographic data. As the project progresses, the Department will also confirm the grades the school will be open to when it is first operational.

When the school has opened, the Department will continue to monitor population and enrolment trends in the local area, and work with the local School Infrastructure office and school leadership to manage enrolment demand as needed.

### Appointing a principal

The appointment of the high school principal will be made in line with the Staffing Procedure for the Teaching Service in NSW Public Schools. The staffing procedure applies to all appointments made to teaching service positions in schools.

Recruitment is underway for the new high school principal role. The principal position will start from Term 1 2022 and lead the establishment of the school during construction and ahead of the school opening.

### Special learning needs

Specialist support classes will be included in the new high school. For information and assistance with special learning needs the educational services team is available on 131 536, or visit Disability, learning and support at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support>. Options for special learning needs can also be discussed with your school principal.

## A part of the local community

The new high school will be an important local educational facility and has been designed to integrate within the local community and environment.

### Material selection

Materials have been selected for their natural tones and textures, as well as for durability and maintenance characteristics. Metal roofing has been selected for its durability and the roof pitch has been minimised to keep the building appearing low-lying in the landscape.

### The natural topography

The buildings respond to the natural topography. This includes through setting the buildings back from the adjoining wetlands and residential area, and also stepping the buildings down the slope towards the west and south.

### Daylight, ventilation and acoustic separation

The new high school will use passive and mechanical ventilation methods for the amenity and comfort of students and staff. The design of the facades, for instance, minimise peak heat loads in summer and use passive heating in the winter.

High levels of daylight are achieved through skylights and windows (in addition to providing external views). Windows to the learning spaces can also be opened to provide natural ventilation.

In regard to acoustic separation, the buildings have been arranged to provide amenity both for students and neighbouring uses. Given the significant separation distances, the proposed high school will not impact the acoustic amenity of adjacent residences.



*Artist's impression of the view across the main school entry with the school administration on the left and the library on the right. Indicative only and subject to change.*

## Outdoor spaces and landscaping

The landscaping of the new high school is integrated with the building design, ensuring students have easy and frequent access to outdoor spaces:

- The school will include a main quad area, sports courts, productive garden and other gathering places
- The main quadrangle is to be multifunctional and will act as a circulation, breakout and play space
- Covered walkways, covered outdoor learning spaces and canopy trees throughout the campus provide protection from the sun and rain
- All terraced outdoor spaces are connected by flights of stairs and ramps ensuring an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students and staff. The embankments between the levels are to be planted with native grasses, shrubs and trees
- The school will include shade tree plantings, raised planter beds and seating opportunities in the productive garden, semi enclosed outdoor learning areas, garden beds, shade trees, open play spaces, planted embankments and tiered seating
- A total of 160 trees are proposed, including a mix of native and exotic trees
- The Educational Walk at the north-western corner of the site will showcase endemic plant species and the surrounding landscape and provide teaching spaces to learn on Country
- Perimeter buffer planting provides native grass planting along the boundaries which strengthens the school's interface with the surrounding landscape and provides additional biodiversity and habitat for local fauna
- The site provides opportunities to regenerate and re-establish the endemic grassland species, improving the biodiversity of the school site and surrounding landscape.

## Connecting to Country

The Aboriginal Education Policy confirms the NSW Department of Education's commitment to improvement in educational outcomes and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It demonstrates the Department's commitment to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy.



*Artist's impression of the view of the lower playground. All terraced outdoor spaces are connected by flights of stairs and ramps ensuring an inclusive and accessible learning environment for all students and staff. Indicative only and subject to change.*

In accordance with the Department's Partnership Agreement with the NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG), all schools, including the future staff of the new high school in Jerrabomberra are strongly encouraged to work with their local AECG to implement Connecting to Country. Connecting to Country provides participants with the opportunity to experience aspects of local Aboriginal culture, learn about local Aboriginal history and establish relationships with members of the local Aboriginal community.

The new high school in Jerrabomberra has been developed to respond to the Government Architect NSW's Draft Connecting to Country Framework and through consultation with the Queanbeyan AECG and a Ngambri Elder, to create a strong, place driven identity that will help instil pride in the school and community.

Country has been embedded within the design and explored within the landscape. Spatially, this has been developed through providing welcoming, inclusive entry spaces and gathering spaces which lend the opportunity for indigenous learning, the ability to gain nourishment from the land and to learn to manage the land. Endemic planting, indigenous foods and medicinal plants further strengthen these opportunities.

The project seeks to further consider Connection with Country through collaboration with traditional custodians and indigenous artists to develop integration of interpretive signage, artwork and place names, consider opportunities for shared use agreements of school facilities, the holding of significant ceremonies, and opportunities to learn from cultural practices and cultural land management.



# NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

At time of SSD application lodgement, the design team has met with local Aboriginal community representatives on site twice, to walk on Country and also to discuss design progress.

## Ecological sustainability

The new high school aims to go beyond minimum building statutory requirements to provide a progressive sustainability outcome for the community. Key initiatives incorporated in the proposed development include:

- Passive design elements to reduce the energy demand of the buildings in operation and improve indoor environment quality and thermal comfort for students and staff
- High performance façade and glazing, energy efficient lighting and air conditioning and solar PV system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Preliminary consideration of the building design's resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts
- High indoor air quality, acoustic design principles, visual amenity and thermal comfort to support the site functions as training and teaching spaces and private staff areas
- Best practice waste management principles in operation, and construction and demolition waste diversion from landfill
- Water efficient fixtures and fittings (high WELS ratings), and rainwater collection from the roof and stored for use on-site (landscaping irrigation, toilet flushing) to reduce potable water consumption.

These Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles adopted for the project will contribute to the conservation of resources and future resilience across the whole life cycle of the project, from construction through to school operations.



## Accessing the school

The project incorporates numerous ways for parents, students, and staff to access the new school.

### Bus zone

A bus zone is located along the western frontage of the school (separated from Environa Drive). This arrangement minimises the impacts of buses drawing in and drawing out of the school bus zone on the through movement of traffic on Environa Drive. Students will not be required to cross a road to access the bus zone.

### Onsite car parking

A total of 34 staff car spaces are provided in the car park, including two accessible spaces. The car park will be accessed from the north road. Visitors will utilise parking on the north road.

### Pick-up and drop-off

Car pick-up/drop-off will occur via eight bays along the north road. Bus pick-up and drop-off will occur via a dedicated bus lane along the Environa Drive frontage.

### Active transport access

The proposal features two main entries for pedestrian, scooter and bicycle access:

- Main entry off the north road along Environa Drive
- Entry off the existing shared path to the south of the site near David Madew Oval.

### Bicycle parking

A total of 114 bicycle parking spaces will be provided for staff and students, located at the northern and eastern pedestrian entries of the school.

All bike parking will be provided within the secured, fenced boundary of the school.

### Assisted School Travel Program

All families are responsible for the transport of their children to and from school. Families who have a child with a disability may be eligible for transport through the Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP), however other support and assistance is also available.

The Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) provides individualised transport to and from school for 10,500 eligible students across NSW. For more information about how specialised transport to and from schools can be provided to eligible students with a disability visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/astp/parents#%3Cspan0>

## Transport

A Transport Assessment of the new high school project has been prepared by consultants and is included in the SSD application. The report analyses the existing transport network, assesses the suitability of the development's access, internal circulation and servicing arrangements, and sets out a draft School Transport Plan (STP).

### School Transport Plan

The key objectives of the draft School Transport Plan are to:

- Maximise the use of active and public transport modes to reduce car traffic before and after school day start and end times
- Achieve the transport mode shares
- Proactively identify and meet school travel demand safely, efficiently and sustainably
- Deliver transport infrastructure to meet school travel demand
- Increase active travel to and from school in a safe transport environment
- Enhance connectedness to neighbourhood and community through safe travel to and from school
- Empower students and young people to be safe road users now and into the future.

In order to achieve these objectives, the draft STP includes a range of measures including:

- Policies and procedures to encourage active forms of transport
- Careful management of day-to-day operations
- A communications plan to keep the school and community informed about travel and transport initiatives

- A Transport Access Guide, which will be included in “welcome packs” provided to parents/guardians and students as part of the Year 7 induction and for new enrolments throughout the year
- Travel surveys, which will be undertaken on an annual basis and used to refine mode share targets and inform policies and procedures.

## Consultation with Transport for NSW

For the project, consultation with Transport for NSW has occurred through the Transport Working Group (TWG). The TWG is attended by representatives from Transport for NSW, Council and SINSW.

The TWG has met four times between June 2021 and November 2021. Key areas of discussion have included:

- The proposed access arrangements to the new school, including bus operations and parking provisions
- The expected impact of traffic movement, including intersection modelling, on the surrounding road network in Jerrabomberra
- Management of safe pedestrian and traffic access to the site facilitated by pedestrian crossing and pathways
- Review of the draft Transport Assessment for input before finalising.



*Artist's impression looking along the bus bay with learning spaces on the right. Indicative only and subject to change.*

## Consultation

The Department of Education has undertaken a number of consultation activities as part of the proposal. This included:

- An online community survey, from November 2020 – December 2020
- Three in-person community engagement and information sessions, held in November 2020
- Distribution of planning updates and frequently asked questions on the proposal to Jerrabomberra households from November 2020 – July 2021.

In the survey, 95 percent of the 695 respondents supported the development of a new high school in Jerrabomberra.

Consultation has also occurred with a number of stakeholders, including:

- Aboriginal Education Consultancy Group
- Aboriginal Traditional Owners
- Registered Aboriginal Parties
- Utility Organisations
- Technical Stakeholder Groups
- Local Schools
- Local community groups
- Project Reference Group
- Poplars
- Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council
- Transport for NSW
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Department of Education Planners
- Government Architect NSW
- Assisted Travel
- Regional NSW
- Heritage NSW
- Canberra Airport
- Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE).



## Have your say about the SSDA

A State Significant Development application has been lodged for the project, and will be on exhibition for 28 days, from Friday 12 November 2021 to Thursday 9 December 2021.

### The SSD application

SSD applications are used for projects that have special significance to the people and State of NSW.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is responsible for the planning approval process for SSD applications, rather than local council.

### The Environmental Impact Statement for the SSD application

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for the SSD application. The EIS contains technical studies, which are an important part of the planning process and provide information to decision makers about the environmental impacts of the project.

Technical studies involve research, site investigations, surveys and assessments, data analysis, and community and stakeholder consultation. They consider traffic, noise, operations, biodiversity and construction management.

Some of the technical studies undertaken for the EIS include:

- Site survey
- Architectural Drawings
- Architectural Design Report
- Landscape Report
- Transport Assessment
- Construction Traffic and Pedestrian Management Plan
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Social Impact Assessment
- Biodiversity Development Assessment Report



*Artist's impression of the close up view of the new school library.  
Indicative only and subject to change.*

- Aviation Assessment
- Noise and Vibration Assessment
- Infrastructure Management Plan
- Structural Report
- Civil Report and Drawings
- Flood Assessment Report
- Geotechnical Report
- Preliminary Site Investigation
- Contamination Assessment
- Construction Waste Management Plan
- Operational Waste Management Plan
- Bushfire Protection Assessment
- Planning Certificate
- Consultation Outcomes Report
- BCA & Access Assessment Report
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Report
- Ecological Sustainable Development Report
- SEPP 64 Compliance Table
- Ecological and Riparian Report.



*Artist's impression of the main school entry from an elevated view above the Educational Trail. Located at the north-western corner of the site the Educational Trail will showcase endemic plant species and the surrounding landscape and provide teaching spaces to learn on Country. Indicative only and subject to change.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can design amendments be made following the lodgement of the SSD application?**

Yes. Before the SSD application is determined, amendments can be made to improve the design, reduce the impacts of the project, and/or respond to issues if required.

Modifications can also be made following the SSD determination. Amendments and modifications will be shared with the community.

### **What happens next?**

The community and other stakeholders can formally provide comments to the consent authority, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

Construction work can start onsite after the SSD application is approved.

### **How can I find out more about the SSD application?**

You can find detailed information about the SSD application by going to the DPIE's website: [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects)

### **How can I provide feedback on the SSD application?**

If you would like to provide feedback, make a formal submission during the exhibition period by following the 'Make a Submission' link at:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/42416>

All feedback on the SSD application should be directed to DPIE via this link.

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

School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)