



Image of flexible learning spaces in NSW public schools

North Sydney Public School upgrade

Project update

May 2021

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver more than 200 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

The North Sydney Public School upgrade is currently in the design phase. The project will include:

- 19 new classrooms
- New administration
- New library
- New hall
- New COLA
- Upgrade to canteen
- Upgrade to student amenities
- New entrance gate on Bay Road.

The project is being fast-tracked as part of the NSW Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

Progress summary

The project team received the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), which is a key step in the planning process. The SEARs advise the studies that need to be included as part of the State Significant Development (SSD) application.

Next steps

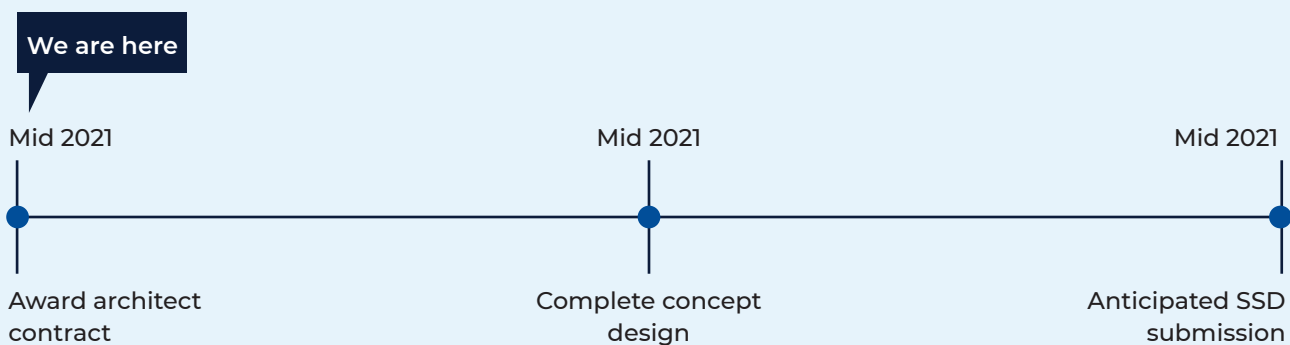
Next steps for the North Sydney Public School upgrade include:

- Go to tender to engage an architect and project consultants, including structural and heritage consultants.
- Develop the concept design, in consultation with the Project Reference Group (PRG).
- Share updated designs with the community.
- Conduct studies and assessments to inform the Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) as part of the SSD application.
- Submit the SSD application with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

For more information contact:

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Proposed project timeline



Frequently asked questions

What is the PRG?

The project team will work closely with the Project Reference Group (PRG), including key members from School Operations, a parent and citizen representative, and a technical review team on the draft concept design. The PRG is key to the project progress, as this group considers the operational, educational and service delivery factors to ensure the concept design aligns with the needs of the school and community.

What is the planning pathway for this project?

It has been determined that the upgrade of North Sydney Public School is a State Significant Development (SSD) and therefore the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) will assess the development application for the project. Preparing an SSD application takes some time and anticipate the application will be lodged in mid-2021.

After the SSD application is lodged it will be put on public exhibition and there will be an opportunity for the community to make submissions directly to DPIE during that time. School Infrastructure NSW will notify residents and the school community through project and website updates prior to the public exhibition.

While the SSD application is being prepared, we are continuing to progress other aspects of the project and will keep the community informed as the project evolves.

What is the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)?

The SEARs is the set of terms by which DPIE will assess School Infrastructure NSW's (SINSW) application for planning approval. The SEARs are prepared by DPIE to ensure the impacts of the project are properly described and understood. DPIE consults with other relevant government departments and agencies to prepare the SEARs. To satisfy the SEARs, SINSW must prepare a document called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is submitted as part of the SSD application.

Will you be considering the heritage features of the school?

We are working with a qualified heritage consultant to understand any heritage significance of buildings and features on the school grounds.

What were the results of the early planning surveys undertaken in 2020?

Early planning consultation undertaken in mid-2020 found 92% of the North Sydney Public School community feel positively about the proposed upgrade. The survey found key priorities for the community include sustainable design, effective use of physical space, outdoor sport courts and activity spaces.

The results were shared with the community in November 2020 and continue to be considered by the project team as the project develops.

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