



Example of upgraded learning facilities being delivered across NSW

# Orange Grove Public School

## Project update

August 2022

### Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$8.6 billion in school infrastructure over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 160 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This builds on the more than \$9.1 billion invested in projects delivered since 2017, a program of \$17.7 billion in public education infrastructure.

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

Orange Grove Public School is being upgraded and will include additional fit-for-purpose learning spaces and upgraded core facilities to meet enrolment growth.

### Progress summary

The project to upgrade Orange Grove Public School has been approved by NSW Government, following approval of the final business case, which releases funding for construction.

We have conducted additional due diligence studies to further understand the site constraints and opportunities, and considered feedback from the community and stakeholders including Inner West Council as part of the pre-DA process. More information about what we heard from community is below.

### Next steps

We will continue to develop the design, in consultation with the Project Reference Group, which includes school leadership and school community representatives.

We will continue to work with Inner West Council and statutory planning consultants to determine the most appropriate statutory planning pathway for the upgrade.

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#### 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)



The community is invited to attend an information session to find out more about the project including how the design has progressed since the early site layout was shared, meet members of the project team to ask questions and provide further feedback. Details about the session are below.

In the coming months we will continue the planning process which includes preparing technical reports and engaging with experts and stakeholders, confirming the statutory planning pathway and continuing to develop the design. We will share the confirmed design for the upgrade with the community prior to seeking formal planning approval. Following lodgement of statutory planning approval, there will be an opportunity to submit further feedback directly to Council during the public exhibition process. We will continue to update the community as we work to deliver this important upgrade for the students of Orange Grove Public School.

## Community survey: What you told us

Thank you to everyone that participated in the online community survey, open for two weeks in June. We received 195 responses from current and prospective parents of students as well as community members. Your responses highlighted what is important to you for the upgrade of Orange Grove Public School and is being considered as we continue the planning for the upgrade.



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## Sustainable design

You told us that sustainable design is the most important factor to consider as we plan for the upgrade of Orange Grove Public School.

The department believes that schools are a vital part of any healthy and thriving community. There is increasing evidence that good design is closely related with student learning outcomes. Factors such as air quality, ventilation, natural lighting, thermal comfort, and acoustic performance have been shown to have a positive impact on teacher and student wellbeing. These factors are part of planning for the Orange Grove Public School Upgrade.

The Department's Education Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG) require that all school projects in planning phases must develop a Sustainable Development Plan including sustainability targets and a schedule which details how the project will address these. For the Orange Grove Public School upgrade, we will target a Five Star rating from Green Star which is a Green Building Council of Australia certification that rates the sustainability of the facility. This includes provision of solar panels, water tanks, use of sustainable materials and efficient fixtures and fittings. More information about the Greenstar rating system can be found on the Green Building Council of Australia's website: <https://new.gbca.org.au>

The design of the Orange Grove Public School upgrade is also guided by environmental design principles set by the NSW Government Architect. These principles aim to reduce the environmental impact within the context of the school, taking into consideration elements such as connectivity throughout the school, creating a large central open space, ventilation and protection from the heat. More information can be found by visiting <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au> and searching "schools".



## Maximising trees and canopy

The second most important factor raised by the community was the need to ensure that the design takes into consideration the existing trees and canopy. According to the EFSG, school sites should conserve the biological diversity of its ecosystems and consider the surrounding natural environment. Schools should connect with nature and be designed to incorporate this connection between the building and environment.

For the Orange Grove Public School upgrade, we are working with arborists, ecologists and the school so the upgrade can accommodate the growing student population whilst aligning with EFSG guidelines for protecting the school's ecological footprint. Early outcomes of this include maintaining the large fig tree at the school entrance via Rayner Street, minimising the need to remove trees, ensuring that trees removed are replaced and committing to working with the school to design the landscaping plan.



## Proposed building location

We received questions about the suitability of the proposed location of buildings and reasons for not focusing the upgrade on the north eastern school side near Balmain Road. Part of early planning on projects is determining suitable building locations, including seeking advice from independent heritage consultants. The area of the school site near Balmain Road has been identified as unsuitable for development as it is within the heritage 'curtilage' of Department of Education's heritage-listed buildings. The NSW Heritage Office recognises that buildings create places through the zones of influence that surround them and therefore these zones should also be protected.

For Orange Grove Public School, this curtilage extends to the area in front of building D, and also includes the trees that sit alongside the school boundary. Putting a new building on this area of the site would obscure the view of the heritage building from the public domain. It would also require the removal of a large number of highly valued trees.

The proposed location of the new facilities nearest to Perry and Emmerick Streets would sit on the non-heritage identified area and protect many of the high valued trees.

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### Maximising play space

We heard the importance of ensuring enough play space is maintained as part of the upgrade. The department acknowledges that play space is key to the wellbeing of our students and a key factor in planning for the upgrade. The size of building footprints and teaching areas are determined in accordance with the department's Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines which aim to maximise play space, and as part of the upgrade adequate open play space will be provided to support student enrolment numbers. In addition, the proposed new multipurpose hall will provide a space for students to engage in sports and physical activity.



### Community access and the markets

You told us that community access to the school is important, including the markets. We recognise that the Orange Grove Organic Markets are a lively and thriving part of the local community. Our intention is that the proposed upgrade will benefit the students as well as the community. We will work with market organisers as we continue to plan for the upgrade, including on how to minimise impacts to operations during construction and any benefits the upgrades may provide to the markets such as in amenities and landscaping.

The proposed new multipurpose hall can provide the community with a place for school performances, community sports or gatherings. Planning for its usage will be conducted in consultation with the school leadership team.

### P&C 2012 masterplan

We appreciate the community's involvement in the development of a masterplan in 2012 by the P&C. This masterplan has been reviewed as part of the planning for Orange Grove Public School upgrade and a number of considerations have been incorporated into the proposed upgrade masterplan such as improved access, circulation and safety, a defined entrance and sustainability. Other elements are not able to be adopted due to current guidelines and protocols that need to be adhered to such as statutory planning requirements, heritage, EFSG, Inner West Council control plans and identified tree protection zones.

### You are invited: Community information session 25 August 2022

Join us at the upcoming information session to find out more about the project scope, design, and timeline. At the information session, you will be able to speak with members of the project team to ask questions and provide feedback about the project.

**Date:** Thursday 25 August 2022

**Time:** 3 pm to 7 pm

**Venue:** Orange Grove Public School hall, Perry St, Lilyfield NSW 2040

**RSVP:** We ask that you book your preferred 30-minute attendance time via [edu.nsw.link/OGPSInfoSession](https://edu.nsw.link/OGPSInfoSession) or by scanning the QR code. This will ensure we can speak with all attendees and answer any questions you may have.



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