

Tacking Point Public Preschool

Frequently asked questions | September 2025

100 new public preschools

As part of the plan to rebuild public education, the NSW Government is investing \$769 million to deliver 100 new public preschools, co-located with public primary schools in NSW, to boost access to public preschool across the state. This is the largest investment in public preschools in NSW history, helping more children access a preschool program before starting school.

Work is underway to deliver a new public preschool at Tacking Point Public School. The new public preschool will provide a safe and engaging environment for preschool children. It will feature specially designed rooms and a quality outdoor play area and will include:

- 3 preschool rooms
- an outside play area
- administration area, amenities, staff kitchen and storage
- a dedicated car park.

Why was Tacking Point Public School chosen for an on-site public preschool?

School sites for a new public preschool were selected by an Assessment Panel based on an analysis of Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data and projected preschool demand and supply data (using Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure forecast population by 2031 and Department of Education early childhood sector supply data), together with an infrastructure feasibility assessment of prioritised schools and insights gained through local consultation. More information about the selection process can be found on the department's website: [100 new public preschools](#)

Preschool location

What is the location for the new public preschool at Tacking Point Public School?

The location for Tacking Point Public Preschool will be within the grounds of Tacking Point Public School. The proposed location is next to the sports court in the south-west corner of the school and offers the optimal combination of proximity to street access, minimal earthworks, and the highest preservation of play space of available options. Please see here the [project update](#) shared in July 2025 to view the location of the preschool.

How has the proposed location been selected and what other locations were considered?

As part of the planning process, we evaluated several locations within the school grounds. The proposed site was selected following a thorough assessment of key factors, including the school's layout, traffic and parking requirements, student needs, existing buildings, accessibility, neighbouring properties, and potential impacts on the surrounding community.

Preferred Location – Location 1 (near the sports court, in the south-west corner of the school):



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- Features an entry location close to the street and a footpath. This enhances safety for children, preserves the existing oval from needing additional earthworks, and allows for co-location of an adjacent car park.
- It is on a steep site, but provides the best access and maintains existing trees.
- Preserves the largest play space area of 16m² per student, based on the current enrolment of 576 students.

Please refer to the image below showing other locations considered:



Image is subject to change pending planning approvals

Location 2 north-west corner near Building I:

- Tested but deemed unsuitable due to an extended travel distance from the street and a steep site incline, which posed safety risks for preschool students during drop-off and pick-up times.
- This location would also require additional earthworks through the school oval, resulting in less play space.

Location 3 along western property boundary

- Similarly tested and found unviable for the same reasons as above: extended travel distance from the street and steep site incline, hindering safe access for families and requiring additional earthworks.

Traffic and Parking**Why is an on-site car park required for the preschool?**

School infrastructure commissioned a traffic consultant who visited the school site during peak hours which includes the morning drop off and afternoon pick up. A recommendation in the report is to provide off street parking to accommodate for the additional preschool demand.

Additionally, under the CDC planning pathway, a Section 128 application is required, and Council may not accept the development if on-site parking is not provided.

What steps is the department taking to address traffic safety concerns?

The driveway will be provided in accordance with the necessary requirements. Mitigation strategies will be implemented where required to ensure student safety and reduce congestion during construction.

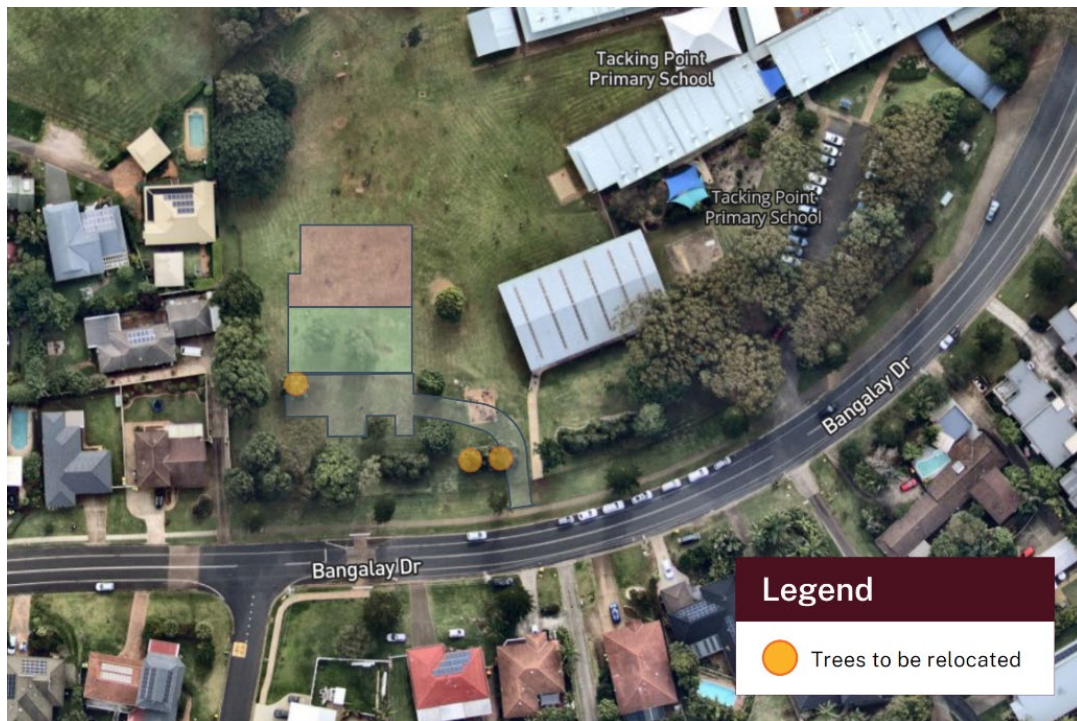
Play space and trees**What play space is available to kids after the preschool construction is complete?**

Location 1 is designed to maintain significant play space for existing students. When the preschool construction is finished, the remaining play space for the public school exceeds the 10 m² per student from the Education Facilities Standards Guidelines (EFSG) requirement and would maintain 16 m² per student, based on the current enrolment of 576 students. This ensures compliance with educational standards and supports physical activity and recreation.

Will any trees be removed during construction of the new public preschool?

The department has commissioned expert advice from environmental consultants who have confirmed that the preschool design can accommodate the existing trees to avoid any potential impact to koala habitat. We will take all possible measures to protect the trees, and while 3 smaller trees will be relocated, no trees will be removed as part of the project.

Please see below the map showing location of the impacted trees which will be relocated in consultation with the school leadership.



Planning pathway

What is the project's planning pathway?

The new preschool will be delivered under a classification of works that does not require a Development Application (DA). Instead, it will proceed under a Complying Development Certificate (CDC), an alternative planning approval pathway that considers potential environmental impacts and helps streamline the approvals process while ensuring compliance with relevant standards.

How was the building contractor selected?

The tender for the building contractor for the public preschool was publicly released on the [NSW Government eTendering website](#). The building contractor, Lipman Pty Ltd, was selected after a thorough process of comparative assessment. The building contractor can be contacted directly regarding subcontracting opportunities.

When will construction start?

Once we have received the planning approval, we will be able to advise the community of the construction start date.

Asbestos mitigation

How will the department address asbestos on-site?

The department will manage any asbestos found during construction in strict accordance with the [NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan](#) and applicable work health and safety laws and regulations. This includes engaging qualified professionals to ensure the safe removal and disposal of any asbestos materials, prioritising the health and safety of all students, staff, and community members.

Enrolment

When will Tacking Point Public Preschool open?

Construction for preschool is anticipated to be completed in time for Day 1 Term 1 2027. The opening date of the preschool will be communicated after service approval is complete.

How can community members get more information or provide feedback?

Community members can contact us directly at 1300 482 651 or via email at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au. We welcome and encourage ongoing feedback and questions.

If you would like to sign up to receive ongoing updates about this project directly to your email, please visit edu.nsw.link/TackingPointPublicPreschool-SignUp