

The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus

Planning update | February 2023

Rebuilding the Richmond River High Campus

Planning is continuing for the Rebuilding of The Rivers Secondary College Richmond River High Campus, which was extensively damaged during floods in early 2022. Richmond River High Campus students will continue learning from their temporary campus in Military Road, adjacent to the Lismore High Campus, until their school is rebuilt.

Current status

- Stages 2 and 3 of the temporary campus in Military Road were completed during the summer school holidays. This includes 11 extra classroom and learning spaces, as well as toilets.
- Initial assessments determined that returning to the Richmond River High Campus site at North Lismore remains highly unlikely, due to the extent of damage to the school buildings, and the history of flooding in and around the site. Further assessments are underway to determine the feasibility of the original site and the scope of work that would be required to build a school that meets the long-term educational needs of the community, as well as the planning requirements relating to flood heights. This information will help inform the Department's review of all site options for the school.

Next steps

- A decision about the future location of the school will be based on:
 - a review of long-term educational need in Lismore and surrounding communities;
 - existing School Infrastructure NSW policies and criteria for the selection of schools sites; and
 - recommendations and advice from the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) and Lismore Council about future housing plans in Lismore. This includes the outcomes of the Resilient Homes Program.
- The project team will consult with the school and community about the desired educational outcomes for the project and key considerations / inclusions.
- Once a preferred outcome has been identified, planning, design and construction phases will follow usual School Infrastructure NSW pathways for the delivery of new schools.
- We will continue to provide information for The Rivers Secondary College school community as the project progresses, and work with the school to provide the best possible outcome for young people in the area. A planning and consultation roadmap for the rebuilding of Richmond River High Campus is overleaf.
- Rebuilding the Richmond River High Campus is expected to take some time, but we will take all necessary steps to ensure that the project is completed as soon as possible for the Lismore community. We thank school and the community for your patience.
- School Infrastructure NSW will share more information during Term 1 about future consultation and engagement opportunities.

EARLY PLANNING

Early planning will take into consideration demographic changes and trends within the region as well as the education requirements, links to transport and site selection based on advice from Lismore Council and the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC).

- Conduct a service needs analysis to understand:
 - Demographic and geographic changes in the region.
 - Socio-economic impacts on communities and commercial businesses.
 - Workshop long term Educational Rationale for the region.
- Begin preliminary site investigations and assessment.
- Options for the rebuild will be considered through the consultation and stakeholder engagement process.
- Assessment of updated flood planning requirements and regulations.

WE ARE
HERE

PLANNING

During the planning phase, consultants such as architects and project managers are engaged. Based on the available site options, master planning commences in consultation with technical stakeholders and key school community representatives.

- Project team is established and key stakeholders are defined.
- Site investigations and due diligence activities continue.
- Site options and rationale communicated with community.
- Master planning and cost planning of the various options begin.
- Identification of preferred location.
- Educational concept and design activities begin with key stakeholders.

APPROVALS

Workshops will be run with the school community to ensure that the long-term educational needs of the community are considered and delivered. During this phase the scope of work and concept design of the future school is further defined.

- Approval sought to proceed and ongoing consultation with Council and NRRC.
- Stakeholder engagement and community information sessions are delivered.
- Statutory planning begins to ensure the relevant planning policies are met.
- Communications and Engagement Strategy is prepared to support statutory planning applications and provide an overview of community engagement activities.

DELIVERY

During the delivery phase, the design is finalised and the construction schedule for the project is confirmed. Collaboration with the school community and Principal is critical during this period to ensure the school is kept informed and any potential disruptions to learning and teaching are mitigated.

- Schematic and detailed design of the rebuilt school is finalised.
- Procurement of main works contractors and consultants.
- Community information sessions will be planned and delivered.
- Construction commencement of the new school facilities.
- Construction completion and handover.

