



## Consultation and keeping your school community informed

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School Infrastructure NSW adopts a consistent and strategic approach to general community communications and engagement across all of our projects.

We are committed to engaging with all stakeholders, including the local community, through the entire project lifecycle; from planning, design and delivery, to operations and maintenance.

SINSW will consult, communicate and engage with the school community during all phases of the project.

School Infrastructure NSW will continue to share information with The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus community as work progresses, by posting project updates on the website.

We thank you for your patience during this important program of work.

## Stay informed

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### Website

Stay up to date by visiting the School Infrastructure NSW website [schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](https://schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)



### Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)



### Phone

Contact us between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**

# The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus

Information pack | June 2022



The NSW Department of Education is coordinating an emergency response effort that is unprecedented in terms of scale and impact. A large number of schools in the Northern Rivers region have damage to either the entire site or some buildings and facilities.

At the peak of the flood events, on Wednesday 9 March 2022, 331 schools had ceased operations throughout the state.

The local North Coast School Infrastructure NSW office inspected 87 schools in flood-impacted areas that sustained a degree of impact from flood waters. Individual impact assessments were undertaken at 52 affected public school sites, each requiring the removal of rubbish, cleaning and securing of the site to ensure they were safe for entry.

The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus suffered extensive damage as a result of the flood events with flood water entering the school and damaging all buildings on the site.

# Site assessment

Based on our initial site visits and assessments, all buildings except for Block A, are beyond repair.

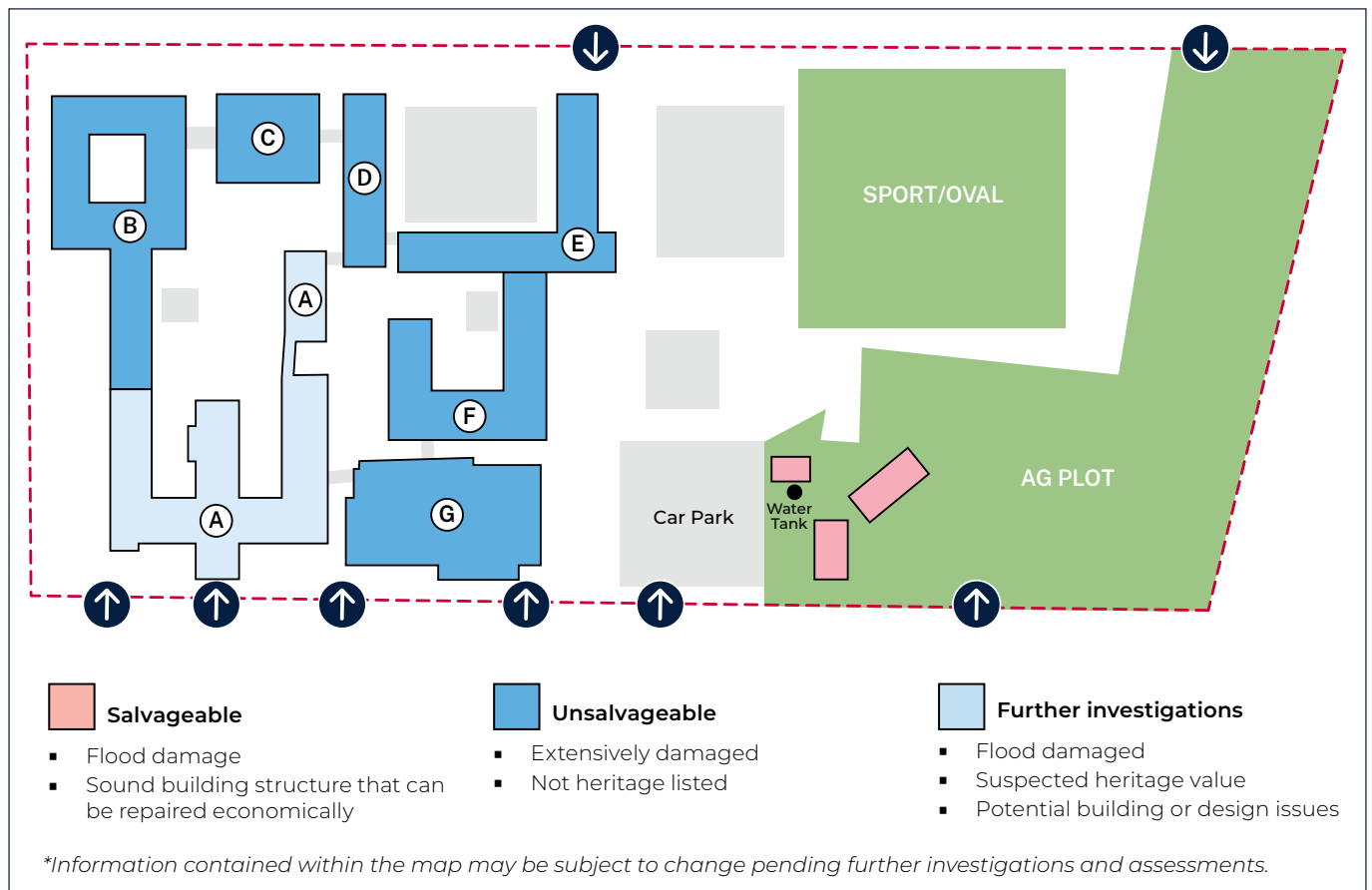
Block A – which houses administration, staff studies and common room, general learning classrooms, hospitality learning space, food tech and the River Theatre – was inundated but did not sustain as much damage as other buildings.

It is a historic, hardwood timber building that was the original Lismore Public School and moved to its existing site in 1897. As it adds character and we understand the historical value to the past and present members of the school community, we are looking at how we can retain and refurbish the building.

Buildings in the agricultural plot are salvageable.

Unfortunately the remaining buildings sustained extensive damage and are unsalvageable:

- Block B: art learning spaces and workshop, gymnasium, science laboratories, staff studies, senior student studies, toilets
- Block C: careers adviser, science laboratories, staff studies, library
- Block D: general learning classrooms, gymnasium, staff study
- Block E: computer laboratories, music rooms, general learning classrooms
- Block F: industrial arts and design learning spaces
- Block G: canteen, multi-purpose space with stage and change rooms.



# Viability of the existing school site

As a result of the extensive flood damage to the site, and the significant ongoing risk of future flooding, it is increasingly unlikely that the current site is viable for a rebuild.

The long history of minor and major flood events at the school have caused disruption to school operations and student learning for the Richmond River High Campus community over the years.

A final determination regarding the future use of the current school site will be made in consultation with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

Any future sites would need to be suitable in terms of flooding and other planning criteria, as well as an appropriate location for a school that meets the needs of the local community.

# The Rivers Secondary College, Richmond River High Campus

The whole Richmond River High Campus was damaged by flood waters and remains closed for cleaning and remediation. Due to the extent of damage, students will continue to learn from the Lismore High Campus, with a temporary “pop-up” school soon to be operational on the site.

## What has happened so far?

Temporary buildings are being installed at the Lismore High Campus to cater for the learning needs of students, with the specialist spaces being progressively installed.

The Richmond River High Campus has been made safe with cleaning and mould prevention progressing, walls and classrooms have been stripped out and the site has been secured.

## Building Richmond River High Campus back better

Our number one priority has always been, and continues to be, to rebuild the Richmond River High Campus.

A project team has been appointed, however, we do not have a firm project timeline in place at present and will be guided by the advice and direction we receive from the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation.

The department is committed to working closely with the community about future decisions for the design and planning of the school, ensuring the long-term educational needs of the community are met.

## Planning for the rebuild

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) will work closely with, and seek recommendations from, the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) during the planning, design and construction phases of the rebuild.

From 1 July 2022, the corporation will act on any recommendations from the Independent Flood Inquiry, manage the rebuild of flood-impacted communities, and coordinate the planning and construction work across multiple government agencies.

SINSW is ready to act immediately on advice and recommendations handed down from the NRRC.

