

Schofields Public School upgrade

Planning update | February 2023

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.

In response to ongoing land releases in the North West Growth Area, the department is delivering a pipeline of school infrastructure projects to help cater to population growth by planning new and upgraded schools now and into the future. The Schofields Public School upgrade is part of this project and will cater to the western region of the North West Growth Area.

What have we done so far?

The project is in the planning stage and requires a business case to be approved by NSW Treasury to determine the full scope of the upgrade. Planning and consultation with the Metropolitan North school leadership and technical experts has begun in order to develop an education rationale for the school and develop a masterplan. It is anticipated the upgrade will include modern facilities such as permanent flexible learning spaces.

The design process

The scope of work for the Schofields Public School upgrade will be developed based on a range of factors including assessment of population and enrolment data, school requirements, current trends in education and learning, existing infrastructure and statutory and planning requirements, available funding as well as the size and physical constraints of the school site. This will be done in conjunction with key stakeholders and guided by the Educational Facilities Standards & Guidelines (EFSG).

There are 4 stages of design for school upgrades:

- Masterplan – provides a basic layout of the upgrade and is subject to treasury and statutory planning approval. We are in the masterplan stage of the design process.
- Concept design – confirms the final location of all facilities, space layouts, and the look and feel of the school. This stage is also used to communicate the need of the project to secure approval and funding.
- Schematic design – involves addressing space, scale and constructability to move the project into design development and eventually, construction. The design is also submitted for development approval during this stage and before construction starts.
- Detailed design – developed to communicate to the contractor the final specifications of the build.

Throughout the design process, we consult with educational leadership and selected stakeholders through a structured process to gain insight into the operational and educational requirements for general learning spaces, specialised environments such as school support units, and other school facilities.

Next Steps

- Finalisation of a masterplan, which reflects and responds to feedback received from key stakeholders, including School Leadership and through the Project Reference Group (PRG).
- Development of a concept design in line with the Department's Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG).
- Development of a business case for submission to NSW Treasury.
- Ongoing consultation with stakeholders on the design.
- Start the statutory approval process.



Frequently asked questions

When will the upgrade be finished?

Business case approval, development consent, and engagement of a building contractor are required before we are able to provide opening dates for the upgrade. The construction program needs to be determined in consultation with the builder. We will share this information as soon as we are able to. We are committed to delivering the upgraded school as soon as practically possible and will look for opportunities to save time where we can, while still complying with best practice and governance requirements.

What is the statutory planning approval process?

School Infrastructure NSW requires development approval to upgrade Schofields Public School. The formal process of gaining this approval is called the statutory planning approval process. Once statutory approval has been received, construction can start.

What is a Project Reference Group (PRG)?

A PRG is a nominated group including architects, planners, design professionals and representatives from local school communities. The design of the school will be developed in consultation with the PRG, considering educational, operational and service delivery requirements.

How can I get involved?

We are committed to working together with our school communities and other stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students. Your feedback on this project is important to us. For more information, questions or to make a comment please email us at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 482 651.

