

# Sydney Olympic Park new high school

## Frequently asked questions

June 2022

To be read alongside 'Information Boards – June 2022'

## Delivering the new school as soon as possible

### Is the new high school fully funded? What about 'Stage 1' and 'Stage 2' funding?

Funding has been fully committed and approved to build a high school accommodating 1,500 students. This has previously been referred to as Stage 1 and Stage 2 in the SSD documentation, due to the timing of the funding coming through and the NSW Government Business Case process. 'Stage 1' was the original announcement of a high school for up to 850 students, and 'Stage 2' was additional funding provided for more learning spaces to accommodate 1,500 students. Funding is approved for both.

### What is the revised planning report and new 'Phase 1' and 'Phase 2' approach?

It is our intent to open the new high school as soon as possible for the community, but in order to receive SSD planning approval we have to work within the existing statutory planning context of the Wentworth Point Peninsula.

Currently, the masterplan for the Peninsula still has the existing 'Ridge Road' in it through the school site and until this Peninsula masterplan is updated, the plans for the new high school must factor this in.

As part of our contingency planning, we have prepared an amendment to the previously exhibited SSD application and site plan for the school that will allow us to phase the construction if required.

This will allow the construction of the new high school to run in parallel with the finalisation of the plans for the remainder of the Peninsula and the future road plans by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and their development partners, Landcom.

Until the updated plans for the road (by others) are approved, our amended plans for the high school will display the existing approved 'Ridge Road', which goes through the site of the future school hall, landscaping and playing field. As soon as the masterplan for the Peninsula is updated, we will request a modification to our SSD approval to proceed with the full plans for the high school.

The intent is that the construction of both phases may be able to occur together with no gap between them.

### When will construction start and when will the school open?

Construction of the new school is expected to begin this year after receiving approval of the SSD application. Following planning approval, the construction start and completion dates can be confirmed when the delivery program has been finalised.

## Transport and traffic

### How are transport and traffic being addressed?

We understand transport is a key issue for the community. Our aim is to deliver the significant benefits the new high school facilities will bring to the community, while working to mitigate transport impacts of the project on the surrounding area.

# NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) transport consultants work closely with transport experts from City of Parramatta Council and Transport for NSW to understand current transport patterns around the Wentworth Point Peninsula. The City of Parramatta Council and Transport for NSW are part of the Transport Working Group for this project as they are the relevant authorities for transport around the new school site.

A Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment (TAIA) was prepared and submitted to support the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the SSD application. It is a technical study that analyses the existing transport network, assesses the suitability of vehicle access points and the impact of the development on the area, and sets out a draft School Transport Plan.

The School Transport Plan process encourages students to choose alternative modes of transport, which is the primary and most effective means of mitigating demands and congestion on the roads in and out of the Peninsula.

## **How is transport and traffic around the school site being managed?**

The selection of the school site at Wentworth Point is based on the availability of sustainable transport options in the area. The majority of students expected to attend the school live within walking or riding distance of the school or on active public transport routes.

Current public high school students in the area must travel to Strathfield or Concord, which is highly dependent on private vehicle use. The new school will reduce private vehicle use and replace them with more sustainable and efficient modes of transport.

As is the case with all new schools, the department promotes the use of active transport through a number of measures including infrastructure that supports this such as end of trip facilities for students and staff, bicycle/scooter parking, pedestrian access, as well as seeking to reduce the use of vehicles by limiting parking and providing only the required drop off facilities.

The position of the school has ample sustainable travel opportunities and the project includes a number of measures to support this, including:

- both undercover and outdoor bike and scooter parking
- end of trip facilities for both staff and students
- kiss and drop spaces including accessible drop off spaces
- raised zebra crossings around the school to increase pedestrian priority and the safety of students arriving by foot or bicycle.

## **Will additional bus services be added to service the high school?**

The department will continue to consult with TfNSW regarding transport and infrastructure and using enrolment figures to plan additional bus services as required.

## **What parking will be provided?**

Active and green travel is encouraged for both students and teachers. Thirty car spaces will be provided for staff on the planned Eastern Road and secured to prevent public parking there during school hours.

Due to the high level of active transport access to the site transport modelling indicates 30 staff spaces is sufficient.

If the playing field, Eastern Road and associated car parking spaces have not been completed when the school opens, 30 car parking spaces will be provided for staff under an alternative temporary arrangement with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA).

It is not anticipated there will be overflow needed, however the school is closely located next to paid parking in the Marina Square shopping centre if additional parking is required.

## What are the plans for the Burroway Road intersection?

It is expected that the revised Peninsula Precinct Plan will allow for the existing Burroway Road roundabout to be changed to a T-intersection. This will improve access along the northern side of Burroway Road and provide a safer crossing experience for students.

Until the updated plans for the road are approved, our amended plans for the high school will maintain the existing roundabout at Burroway Road.

## Community use

### When will the community have access to the adjoining playing field?

The proposed adjoining playing field will be developed by Landcom and be subject to a Joint Use Arrangement, which will allow it to be available for public use outside school hours.

This means the adjoining playing field and carpark will be for school use between approximately 6 am – 6 pm weekdays and community use outside these times, on weekends, public holidays and during school holidays. The estimated minimum hours for community use will be approximately 59% of the calendar year (taking into consideration usable hours of 6am – 10pm daily).

The details of the Joint Use Agreement and the exact specification of the playing field including size, lighting and fencing will be resolved as the design continues to be developed in consultation with Council, TfNSW and Landcom as TfNSW's development partner. The playing field is part of a separate statutory approval process to the high school.

### Are there any other shared facilities included in the project?

There is the opportunity for community use of school facilities such as the hall, movement studio and performance and fitness learning units. The location of these facilities at the northern end of the school allows for secure community access for special events outside of school hours, should shared use arrangements be made in the future.

## Enrolments and school operations

### How many students will be at the school when it opens?

This will depend on the intake area and enrolments, but as is normal with a new high school, it will start with only one or two year groups, i.e. Year 7 or Years 7 and 8.

Student numbers will grow progressively from the first year of opening. This is to make sure there are adequate numbers of students and teaching staff to deliver a full curriculum based on the elective preferences of the students at the school. This also allows time to develop the school culture and to establish systems and processes in consultation with key stakeholders to reflect the school's growing identity.

Student numbers of up to 850 at the new high school are not expected to be reached until a number of years after opening, by which time the full facilities are expected to have been delivered.

### What will the intake area be?

The intake area will be confirmed closer to the school opening. Changes to surrounding intake areas are made to accommodate a new school into a local network and this typically takes place around 12 months before the new school opens. This ensures the community is well informed in advance of enrolment periods and the school can prepare for anticipated student numbers.

The intake area will be based on the most up to date demographic data on the number of school-aged children living in the local area at the time the school opens, along with consideration of suitable active and public transport options and enrolment trends at surrounding schools. Intake area boundaries are updated regularly to ensure every child in NSW has a well-resourced local public school to attend.

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## When can I enrol my child?

Enrolments will open once the starting year groups and opening date have been confirmed. This is expected to be around 6-12 months before the new school opens and after the intake area has been confirmed.

## What type of high school will it be?

The new high school will be a co-educational, comprehensive high school, taking student enrolments from the local intake area. It will not be a specialist high school.

## When will we find more about how the new high school will operate?

As the project progresses, information will be shared with the community to prepare for the opening and operations of the new school. Information will include the development of a school vision, plans for the future and the new school identity (motto, colours, uniform).

## When will a Principal be appointed?

The appointment of the high school principal will be made in line with the Staffing Procedure for the Teaching Service in NSW Public Schools. The staffing procedure applies to all appointments made to teaching service positions in schools.

Once the State Significant Development approval is received, a timeline for the appointment of a principal can be further developed and communicated to the community.

## What will the school name be?

The proposed name of the new high school will be developed in line with the Naming of NSW Government Schools Policy and Procedures and involve consultation with the community, before a name is proposed to the Geographical Naming Board and to the Minister for Education.

'Sydney Olympic Park new high school' is the name of the project and will not be the name of the finished school.

## The design

### How was the design developed?

The scope of work and design for the new school was developed based on a range of factors, including assessment of population and enrolment data, school requirements, current trends in teaching and learning, existing infrastructure, available funding, as well as the size and physical constraints of the site.

The concept design focuses on placing buildings, learning spaces, and facilities in the right locations to meet educational and operational needs.

Schematic design, which is the design submitted with the SSD application, looks more closely at the internal layout of spaces and how they will function.

To find out more about the design process, see the information boards and FAQ from September 2021 on the project website.

## Staying involved

### How do I provide feedback?

All feedback previously provided to School Infrastructure NSW has been considered during the preparation of the SSD application and amendment. The next phase of community consultation is the public exhibition of the Amendment to the SSD. During public exhibition, submissions must be made directly to DPE.

### How can I stay informed?

We are committed to working together with our school communities to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students.

To get involved in the project:

- Visit the project website at [edu.nsw.link/SOPHS](https://edu.nsw.link/SOPHS) for all the project details, project updates and documentation.
- Register via the form [edu.nsw.link/ProjectUpdates](https://edu.nsw.link/ProjectUpdates) to have project updates emailed to you.

## Other projects in Wentworth Point

### What are the plans for Wentworth Point Public School upgrade – Stage 2?

Funding for Stage 2 of Wentworth Point Public School was announced as part of the 2021-22 NSW Budget and will include additional permanent teaching spaces to meet growing enrolment demand in the area. Stage 2 of the Wentworth Point Public School upgrade is in the planning phase.

The project teams for Sydney Olympic Park new high school project and the Wentworth Point Public School upgrade – Stage 2 are working closely together, including on traffic and transport analysis.

More information will be provided as the project progresses.

### What about other plans for the Wentworth Point Peninsula?

Stay informed about plans for the Wentworth Point Peninsula, including the Peninsula Park, by contacting by contacting Landcom on 1800 328 956 or [wentworthpoint@landcom.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wentworthpoint@landcom.nsw.gov.au).