

Sydney Olympic Park new high school

Frequently asked questions

September 2021

To be read alongside Information Boards, September 2021

The planning application

What is the status of the project?

The State Significant Development (SSD) application is being lodged with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for planning approval. DPIE will place the SSD application, including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), on public exhibition for the community to review. Submissions should be provided directly to DPIE.

The NSW 2021/22 Budget includes additional teaching spaces and specialist curriculum facilities for the Sydney Olympic Park new high school project, increasing the number of students to be accommodated from more than 800 to approximately 1500. The SSD application will seek planning consent for both these stages of the school. While the second stage is submitted as part of this proposal, construction is subject to separate approval of the business case.

You can find more information at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/40751

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An EIS provides a comprehensive description of the project's environmental, social and economic impacts. It includes detailed information on the project scope and design plans.

The EIS contains technical studies, which are an important part of the planning process and provide information to decision makers about the environmental impacts of the project.

Technical studies involve research, site investigations, surveys and assessment, data analysis, and community and stakeholder consultation. They consider traffic, noise, operations, heritage and construction management.

The SSD application (including the EIS) will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days by DPIE. Submissions must be lodged directly with DPIE. Community and government agency submissions will be used by DPIE to make a determination on the project.

How can I provide feedback on the SSD application for the Sydney Olympic Park new high school?

All feedback on the SSD application should be given to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. To find out how to submit your feedback, please go to:

www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say

What if I've already contacted School Infrastructure NSW to provide my feedback?

All feedback previously provided to School Infrastructure NSW has been considered during the preparation of the SSD application. The next phase of community consultation is the public exhibition of the SSD application (including EIS) by DPIE. During public exhibition, submissions can be made directly to DPIE. General enquiries to clarify the information contained within the SSD application can be made to SINSW.

What is the next step in the process?

DPIE will review all submissions received during the 28-day public exhibition period. When public exhibition has ended, DPIE will request SINSW to provide a formal response to submissions, before completing the assessment of the application.

The project

What was the process to design the school?

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 education and learning, existing infrastructure, available funding, as well as the size and physical constraints of the site.

The design for the school began with the preparation of an educational rationale which is developed with the Department of Education stakeholders. This outlines the guiding principles for the educational outcomes which are to be addressed through the design.

Following this, the concept design was developed looking at the needs of the school based on the spatial requirements, data, site constraints and Educational Standards and Facilities and Guidelines. This is done in consultation with key stakeholders.

The concept design focuses on placing buildings, learning spaces, and facilities in the right locations to meet educational and operational needs. It explores important functional requirements such as pedestrian flow and accessibility throughout the campus. Architects considered the overall layout and look and feel of the school, including the character and how it responds to the local surrounding area, taking into consideration heritage, environmental, access, transport and other planning requirements.

It is important to note that the concept design is not the final design. It will be subject to change until the design process is completed, should development consent be granted for the project.

What does the design include?

The new school will include a six-storey building with two wings, and a separate yet integrated multipurpose hall for fitness, movement and performance.

The layout of the school building creates a central courtyard for students that is physically separated and protected from the surrounding streets.

The school is arranged by learning units that are focused on discipline-based learning neighbourhoods (like science or visual arts). In the design, these are grouped in clusters across the two wings, with specialist learning spaces in one wing, and general learning spaces in the other.

General learning spaces will be located over three floors, reducing student movement and allowing the creation of faculty departments. Learning common areas are spread throughout the building, encouraging collaboration and allowing flexible use by year grouping or curriculum.

The top floor will be used for senior students and staff areas, offering space away from the activities of the main school.

Administration, library, performance and fitness facilities will be on the ground floor and level 1, for easy connection with the community and to allow access to some of these facilities outside of school hours.

The support learning unit is on the main entry level to the street and provides direct access to the play space.

What play space will be provided for the students?

Ultimately, the school site and adjoining play space will provide space for a high school to accommodate approximately 1500 students. This includes space for multipurpose courts, gymnasium, covered outdoor learning areas, landscaped recreation areas and walkways between buildings, as well as the playing field. The size of building footprints and play spaces are determined in accordance with NSW Department of Education's Educational Standards and Facilities Guidelines.

The proposed adjoining play space, comprising an area of around 8,800sqm, will be subject to a Joint Use Arrangement and available for public use outside school hours. The exact specification of the playing field will be resolved as the design continues to be developed in consultation with Council and Transport for NSW and is part of a separate approval process.

How will traffic and transport be managed?

From the outset, the selection of the site for the new high school has been based on sustainable travel and population demand.

At present, high school students in the area must leave the Wentworth Point Peninsula to attend high school. The location of the new school in a high density, walkable residential area means that the future school population will be able to easily walk to school, reducing traffic.

A complete transport assessment has been conducted, including traffic surveys, to support the planning application for this project.

Analysis of the existing student population suggests that 26% of the potential students are within a 1.2km walk and 52% are within a 2.9km walk. This number is expected to increase as future residential developments are completed in the area.

According to modelling, long term congestion is expected to reduce. This is because the majority of students (70%) attending the new local high school will no longer be required to travel out of the Wentworth Point Peninsula using Hill Road. Students will instead walk, cycle and use buses to travel to school within the peninsula. For the approximately one third of students expected to travel to the school via car (30%), this travel is opposite to the peak flow that is currently causing congestion in this area.

A range of infrastructure is proposed to support the school including drop off and pickup facilities, as well as infrastructure that will be delivered as part of future development plans.

Traffic and transport movements have been considered as part of the SSD application and can be found in the Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment (TAIA), which is a technical study in the EIS.

What infrastructure will be delivered to support the project?

A range of transport infrastructure is proposed to support the school including:

- four raised zebra crossings around the school to increase pedestrian priority and the safety of students arriving by foot or bicycle
- eight kiss and drop spaces provided in front of the school along Burroway Road
- more than 140 bicycle parking spaces and changeroom facilities to support active transport to school.

Additional infrastructure is proposed as part of future development plans. The land to the east will be subject to a separate approval process. Redevelopment of the land may include a new road along the eastern boundary of the site that will include car parking, drop-off zones and delivery zones for the proposed school.

Are there any shared facilities included in the project?

The adjoining playing field will be a shared facility, subject to a Joint Use Arrangement and available for public use outside school hours.

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 joint use arrangements be made in the future.

When will construction start?

Construction on the new school is expected to start in mid 2022, pending determination of the SSD application. Following planning approval, the construction start and completion dates will be confirmed when the delivery program has been finalised. Early works are expected to begin while the SSD application is being assessed. Early works will include more detailed site investigations and earth works to level and prepare the site. The community will be notified prior to the start of work.

School Operations

What will the intake area be for the new high school?

The new high school is being developed to cater for the growing population in the Sydney Olympic Park, Wentworth Point and Concord West communities. The intake area (sometimes referred to as the school catchment) will be confirmed closer to the school opening. It 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. Adjustments are used to balance enrolment numbers between local schools. Adjustments are also made to accommodate a new school into a local network and this typically takes place around 6-12 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.

What type of high school will it be?

The Sydney Olympic Park new high school will be a co-educational, comprehensive high school, taking student enrolments from the local intake area.

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 students start and what year groups will the school open with?

The year groups in place at school opening are to be determined. As with intake area changes, this will typically take place around 6-12 months before the new school opens to ensure the community is well informed in advance of enrolment periods and so the school can prepare for anticipated student numbers.

Population growth and infrastructure planning

How is the Department of Education planning for growth in the area?

The Department of Education monitors population and development trends so that it can plan to meet enrolment needs in schools across NSW. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) issues population projections and housing forecasts within the NSW Common Planning Assumptions to be used by all government agencies as a consistent basis for infrastructure planning. These inform the department's enrolment projections within a planning timeframe to 2036. Other factors relating to demand may include demographic change, government share, and market trends.

The department also liaises regularly with DPIE, local councils and developers in relation to planning and development proposals. The department is a government stakeholder for consultation relating to development plans for the Wentworth Point Peninsula and has taken dwellings proposed into consideration in its planning projections.

Student demand is projected to be met by the new high school and the department will continue to monitor enrolment needs of the area.

You can find more information about how the Department of Education plans for growth via this fact sheet: www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/we-build-schools/planning-for-growth-fact-sheet.html

Other projects in the Wentworth Point Peninsula

What are the plans for Wentworth Point Public School?

Funding for 44 new and upgraded school projects were announced as part of the NSW 2021/22 Budget including the upgrade of Wentworth Point Public School, which 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. More information will be provided as the project progresses.

What about other plans for the Wentworth Point Peninsula?

The master plan for Wentworth Point Peninsula is being updated by Transport for NSW. This update will accommodate the new high school and Peninsula Park alongside mixed-use development and waterfront facilities.

Over the coming months there will be opportunities for the community to participate in the process and provide feedback.

In parallel to the master plan update, Transport for NSW is considering how to deliver the next stage of work on the Peninsula Park to provide the local community with access to open space and the waterfront.

More information about the master plan update and park delivery works will be shared with the community over coming months. If you need information sooner, contact Transport for NSW on projects@transport.nsw.gov.au.