

The Forest High School relocation

Key project information | August 2022



Project overview

The Department of Education is continuing with plans to relocate The Forest High School to a portion of 187 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights. The relocation is part of the re-zoning and planning framework for Frenchs Forest to create a new town centre for the community.

The project is finalising the State Significant Development (SSD) application and will lodge this with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in the coming weeks.

The department invites community feedback prior to lodgement of the SSD.

Student learning will continue at the current school site until the new facilities are built.

The new high school will include:



Modern, flexible learning spaces
for up to **1,500** students



New library, canteen and
administration spaces



Multipurpose sports
and performance hall



New outdoor sports courts, landscaped
recreation and outdoor learning spaces

The revised design

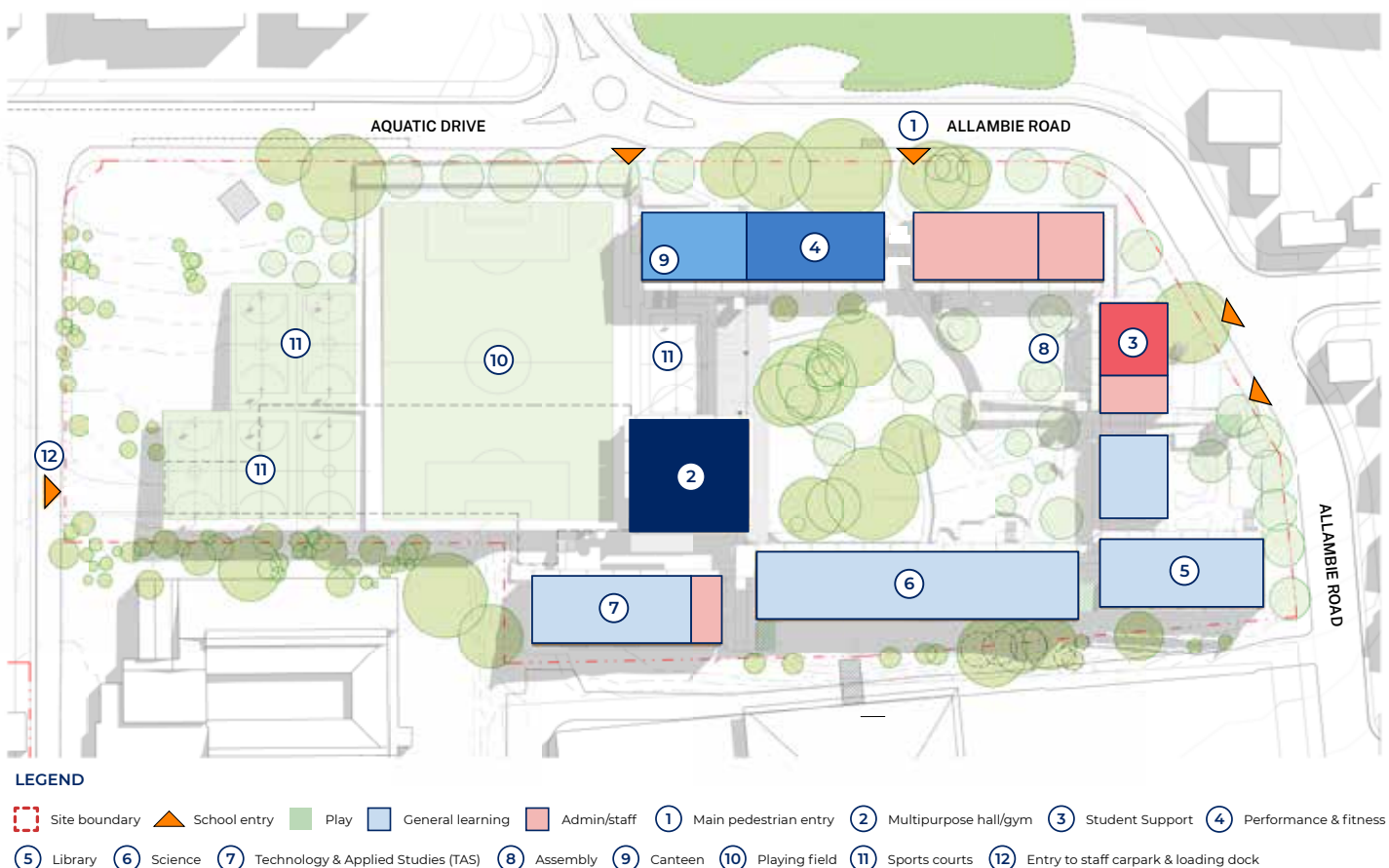
A design for The Forest High School was presented to the school and local community in December 2021 and feedback has been considered in the design development process. The NSW Department of Education conducted its own review of the project to identify opportunities for change that provide better outcomes for students and the school community. A department initiative to develop the new school as a centre of excellence in line with broader inclusive education policies has further contributed to the revised design.

The revised design enables modern teaching methods while reducing the visual impact of the new school along Allambie Road. It allows efficient and effective movement of students and staff around the site while offering significant connection with outdoor space.

The new low-rise design, lowered from 4 to 2 storeys, incorporates a central courtyard with a series of buildings that wrap its four sides forming a 'learning loop'. The COLA and a sports court lead from this central courtyard to the playing field and sports courts to the west of the site.

Learning spaces throughout the school are grouped by subject area and the main ground floor looped walkway connects core subject zones. Multiple covered walkways and cross courtyard routes to different parts of the school improve movement around the site and covered outdoor learning spaces and canopy trees provide connection to the outdoors with protection from the sun and rain.

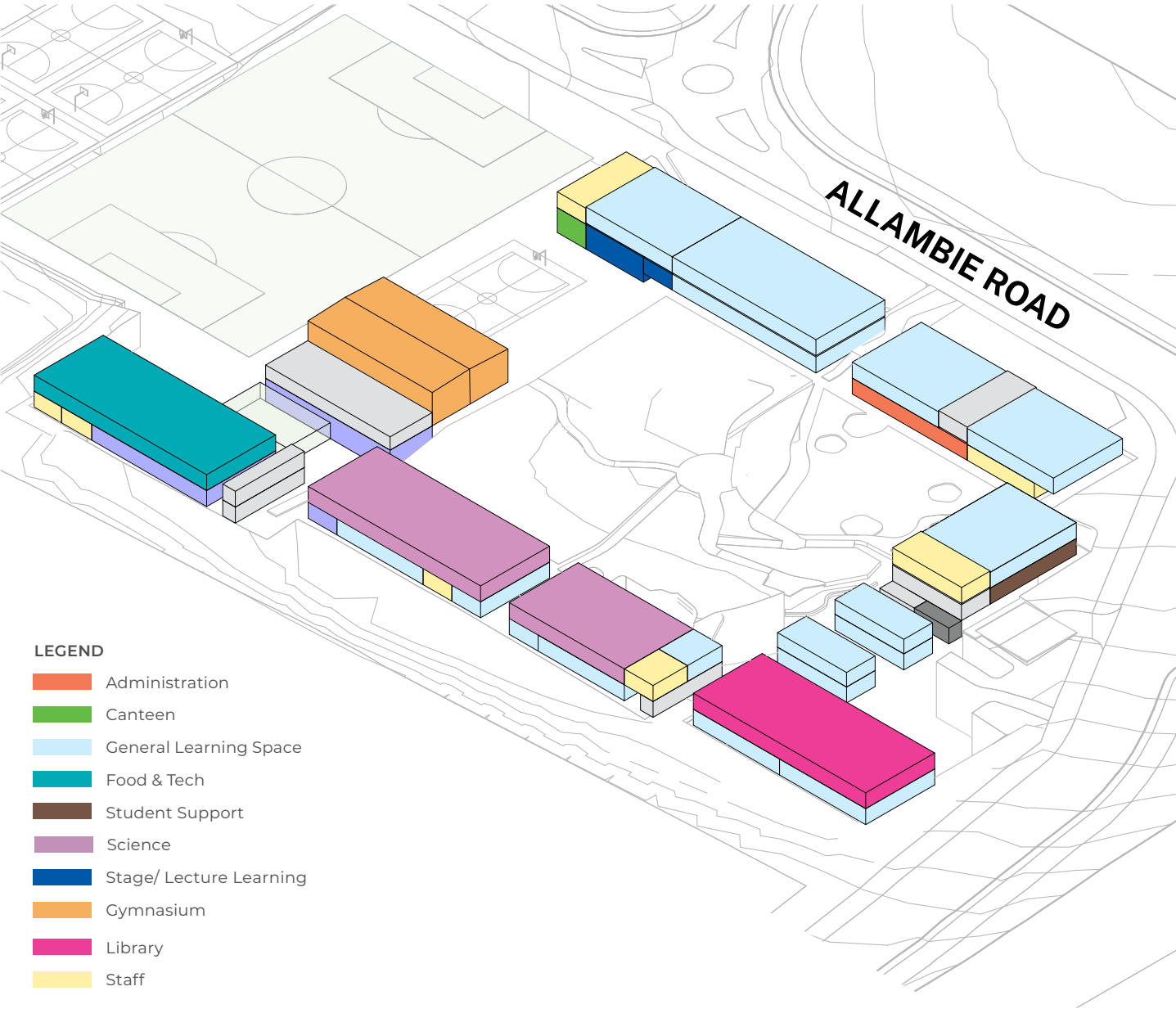
Revised site layout



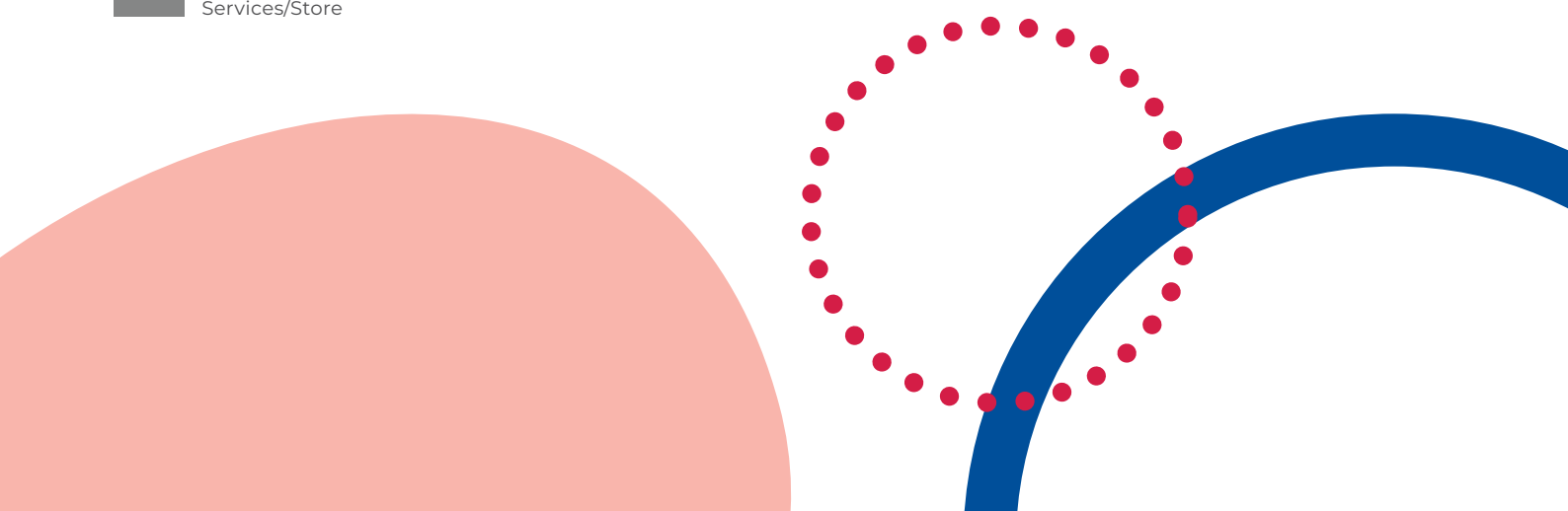
Subject to change

Flexible learning spaces

The new high school is designed to support contemporary learning and teaching methods. Many indoor and outdoor learning spaces are flexibly laid out allowing students to work in varied group sizes. The technology and infrastructure incorporated in these spaces will further support a variety of teaching and learning configurations.



Subject to change



Connection with the environment

The new educational facility has been designed to integrate with the environment. The site owes its unique character to its surroundings and connections to nature and offers distant views over Allambie Heights, the Garigal National Park, the Pacific Ocean, and the Sydney CBD. The revised design enhances views to the bush, giving students, teachers, and visitors an opportunity to glance over the treetops to connect with nature.



Artist impression of the side pedestrian entry on Allambie Road

The design works in well with the natural topography and considers maximum connection with outdoor spaces. It seeks to retain as many mature trees and bushland areas as possible, while also providing the needs of a modern high school.

The heart of the campus is imagined within the central open courtyard and the sports field, sporting courts and outdoor learning spaces throughout the site establish a strong connection to nature.

Materials have been selected for their natural tones and textures as well as for durability and sustainability. Access to natural light and a subtle use of colour within learning spaces will contribute to a calm learning environment.



Artist impression of the COLA and sports field



Artist impression of the main pedestrian entry on Allambie Road to the north of the site

School entry points

There will be multiple entry points for the new school. The main entry will be situated on Allambie Road at the north end of the site, closest to the administration building. This entry will serve as the primary pedestrian entry to the site, capturing students travelling by foot or bicycle from the north as well as students being dropped off at the kiss 'n drop zones or coming from buses in both directions. It is adjacent to the new signalised traffic intersections at the corner of Allambie Road and Aquatic Drive.

A secondary pedestrian entry point will be located on Aquatic Drive on the north end of the site, adjacent to the Performing Arts spaces, gym and sporting facilities. This entry point will also serve as a secure entry point for out of hours activities.

Two further secondary entry points will be located on the eastern side of the school. One will provide a vehicle entry point to the covered accessible drop off zone that will be located adjacent to the student support unit. The other will provide pedestrian entry for students travelling by foot or bicycle from the south, as well as the adjacent bus stop and will allow easy access to bike parking and school assembly areas.

A vehicle entry to the staff carpark and loading dock will be accessed via the Arranounbai School driveway.

Traffic and transport

A Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment of the new high school project is being included in the SSD application following consultation with the school and local community. This report analyses the existing transport network and assesses the suitability of site access, internal circulation, and servicing arrangements.

The assessment report also includes a School Transport Plan (STP) to manage travel demand and inform stakeholders such as bus operators, Transport for NSW and local council about transport requirements.

A range of traffic mitigation and transport infrastructure has been proposed to support the new school and the local community. Studies to measure the impact of the new school development to key intersections in the surrounding area have been undertaken, including cumulative impacts from known future developments. These studies show that the proposed measures significantly mitigate the introduction of the new school to its new location.

Infrastructure upgrades

New traffic lights will be installed at the intersection of Aquatic Drive and Allambie Road. A new pedestrian crossing at the Rodborough Road/ Allambie Road intersection and a pedestrian refuge on the eastern side of the school on Allambie Road are also proposed to ensure the safety of students, staff and the wider community.

Bus zone

Three bus zones will service the school, including an existing bus zone on the north of the site, a new bus zone to the west of the new signalised intersection on Allambie Road, and an expanded bus zone on the east side of Allambie Road.

Onsite car parking

A total of 121 staff car spaces will be provided in the car park that will be located under the playing field. The car park will be accessed from a separate driveway, off the existing Arranounbai School driveway.

Pick-up and drop-off

Car pick-up/drop-off will occur via Kiss 'n drop bays on the north side of Aquatic Drive. A dedicated covered support unit drop-off will be provided at the eastern side of the school. An accessible on-street kiss 'n drop will also be provided adjacent to the main pedestrian entry to the school.

Active transport

An existing shared path will be widened adjacent to the school to provide for safe pedestrian and cyclist travel along Aquatic Drive and Allambie Road.

More than 120 secured bicycle spaces and 60 scooter spaces will be located at the eastern and northern entries of the school, off Allambie Road, within the secured, fenced boundary of the school.

Assisted School Travel Program

Families who have a child with a disability may be eligible for transport through the Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP). The Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) provides individualised transport to and from school for 10,500 eligible students across NSW. For more information about how specialised transport to and from schools can be provided to eligible students with a disability visit: education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/astp/parents#%3Cspan0.



The SSD application

The State Significant Development (SSD) application is being prepared for lodgement with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) . SSD applications are used for projects that have special significance to the people and State of NSW and the DPE are responsible for the planning approval process of these projects, rather than local council.

As part of the SSD application, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared. The EIS contains technical studies involving research, site investigations, surveys and assessments, data analysis and community and stakeholder consultation.

Technical studies undertaken as part of the SSD application include:

- Design Analysis
- Traffic & Transport
- Social Impact Analysis
- Noise And Vibration
- Aboriginal Assessment
- Ecological Sustainable Development
- Construction Management
- Hydraulic
- Contamination
- Waste Management
- Stormwater Management
- Accessibility Assessment

Once lodged, the SSD application will be on exhibition to the public for 28 days.



Artist impression of the aerial view of the school from Allambie Road

Frequently asked questions

What is the proposed intake area for the new school?

The new school will be located within the current intake area for The Forest High School. Intake area boundaries are regularly updated to balance enrolments equally between local schools to ensure every child in NSW has a well-resourced local public school to attend. The Department of Education will confirm any changes to intake areas closer to the school opening using the most current demographic data.

When will construction work begin?

Construction work can start on site after the SSD application is approved and following the tender process for a construction contractor.

There is an existing development application approved by Council to demolish McLeod House and prepare the site for the main construction activity. More information about construction works will be shared with the community prior to works commencement.

How can I stay up to date on this project?

You can stay informed by regularly visiting the project web page at edu.nsw.link/TFHSrelocation.

How can I provide feedback on the project?

Community feedback on new school infrastructure projects is incredibly important to us. If you would like to provide feedback or ask questions about the project prior to the SSD submission, please contact us via email at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 482 651.

All feedback received to date has been considered in the ongoing progression of the project.

Following the lodgement of the SSD application, the project will be placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). During this time, you can provide a formal submission by using the 'Make a Submission' link on the project page of the DPE website. More information about this process: pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects.

Where do I find information on the new Frenchs Forest Town Centre?

For more information on this project and the Frenchs Forest Place Strategy please visit planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Priority-Growth-Areas-and-Precincts/Frenchs-Forest.

Stay informed



Website

Stay up to date by visiting the project page at edu.nsw.link/TFHSrelocation



Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Phone

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