



Artist impression of The Forest High School

# The Forest High School relocation

## Project update

November 2022

### Investing in our schools

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.

The NSW Department of Education is committed to delivering new and upgraded schools for communities across NSW. The delivery of these important projects is essential to the future learning needs of our students and supports growth in the local economy.

### Project overview

The Forest High School is part of the re-zoning and planning framework for Frenchs Forest to create a new town centre for the community. The Forest High School will be relocated to a portion of 187 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights. This is located within the current intake area for The Forest High School.

The Forest High School relocation project will include modern flexible learning spaces for up to 1500 students; a new library, canteen, and administration spaces; a multi-purpose sports and performance hall; new outdoor sports courts and landscaped recreation and outdoor learning spaces.

### Progress update and next steps

The revised design for The Forest High School was presented to the school and local community in August and feedback has been considered in the final preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS considers such matters as traffic, noise, operations, ecology, bushfire, and construction management.

The State Significant Development (SSD) application for this project, including the EIS and all technical reports, will be lodged with Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) soon and the community will be notified. The SSD will be placed on public exhibition on the DPE Planning Portal with submissions made directly to DPE during that time: [pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/new-forest-high-school](https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/new-forest-high-school).

### For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW  
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The NSW Government recently purchased part of the land previously owned by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance on the corner of Allambie Road and Aquatic Drive, Allambie Heights. On Sunday 30 October, emergency services were called to McLeod House, an unused building on the site. Small fires in the building were quickly put out and there was minor damage to the property. As a precautionary measure, security guards have been put in place during at risk hours in the evenings, overnight and weekends. In the coming weeks, buildings will be boarded up to prevent access and gaps in fencing will be closed.

There is an existing development application approved by Council to demolish McLeod House and prepare the site for construction. The site will be secured in late 2022 and demolition of McLeod House will take place in early 2023. More information will be provided to the community ahead of works starting.

### **Questions from the community**

You will find detailed information about the project on our website [edu.nsw.link/TheForestHS](https://edu.nsw.link/TheForestHS). The August 2022 Information Boards and Information Pack, found in the Library tab, will answer most questions in more detail, but we have provided below some key information regarding the common themes raised at this session and in feedback received since.

#### **Why is the school relocating?**

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.

#### **Will there be a disruption to student learning?**

Student learning will continue at the current school site until the new facilities are built. This will minimise disruption to student learning in the transition process.

#### **How will traffic and transport be managed?**

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 other known future developments. These studies show that the proposed measures significantly mitigate the introduction of the school to its new location.

- 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 is also proposed to ensure the safety of students, staff, and the wider community.
- 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.
- A total of 121 staff car spaces will be provided in the car park that will be located under the playing field. The carpark will be accessed from a separate driveway, off the existing Arranounbai School driveway.
- Pick-up and drop-off will occur via kiss 'n drop bays on the north and south sides 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.
- 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.

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### **What is the visual impact of the school on the local community?**

The revised design presented to the community at the 11 August 2022 Information Session included buildings along Allambie Road lowered from 4 storeys to 2.

The revised 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.

Materials have been selected for their natural tones and textures as well as for durability and sustainability.

### **How accessible will the school be?**

The school will include supported learning facilities for specialist support classes. The facilities will comply with the Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG) and Education Disability Discrimination Act including, but not limited to:

- accessibility through lifts, ramps, walkways, and other measures including height adjustable furniture
- provision of accessible bathrooms for both students and staff
- provision of accessible drop off zones and parking.

### **Are there plans for student parking on site?**

Currently there are no plans for student parking on-site, however alternate options are being considered and will be subject to consultation with local council.

### **When will construction start?**

Construction works will start on site after the State Significant Development application is approved by the Department of Planning (DPE) and following the tender process for a construction contractor.

As we prepare for establishment onsite and for works to start, we will update the community on how we will manage and mitigate impacts of construction.

### **When will the school open and what will the intake area be?**

Indicative timing for the new school to be open is 2025, but this will be confirmed should the SSD application be approved and following the contract award for a main works builder, who will develop a delivery program. We will continue to share information as the project progresses. 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 the intake area closer to the school opening using the most current demographic data.

### **How can I find out more?**

For more information visit [edu.nsw.link/TheForestHS](https://edu.nsw.link/TheForestHS) or scan the QR code.

If you have any questions, would like to raise concerns or would like to know more about the project, please contact School Infrastructure NSW at [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au) or 1300 482 651.



For a **Translation and Interpreting Service**, call **131 450** and ask them to call the Department of Education - School Infrastructure NSW on **1300 482 651**.

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