

Willyama High School

Information Pack – September 2024



An example of a multipurpose hall which we are building for students across NSW

Planning is well underway to rebuild Willyama High School. The facilities will include:



New classrooms



Specialised classrooms



Amenities



Agricultural facilities



Modern core facilities including canteen, hall and library



Sports courts



Sports field



For more information

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Progress summary and next steps

Planning for the rebuilding of Willyama High School has continued with site investigation activities now complete and planning for the demolition of the existing buildings underway.

In the coming months, we expect to engage a demolition contractor to decontaminate the Willyama High School site and begin the demolition of the existing buildings. At the same time, we are continuing with the development of the master plan for the project. The master plan is the first of the four design stages, which will look at the best footprint and location of buildings on the site and identify areas suitable for expansion if the school were to grow in the future.

The process to engage a range of subject matter experts such as project manager, cost manager, hygienist, heritage advisors, environmental advisors and a project arborist, is underway. These technical experts will develop specialist reports to help us identify the most suitable statutory planning pathway for the project. Consultation with relevant government agencies will continue including Transport for NSW and Broken Hill City Council.

We will keep the community informed as we progress through the next stages of this important project.

Project timeline

The identified timeline is our goal. These dates may move depending on factors which may not be within our control, including feedback received, statutory planning approval and impacts from weather.

The community will be kept informed as the project progresses.

Once a building contractor is on board and a program of works is developed, we will inform the community about the projected construction start and finish dates.





Example of classrooms delivered across NSW

The demolition process

Remediation Action Plan (RAP) is developed

Willyama High School will need to be decontaminated and the site remediated before demolition can begin. To conduct this work, an accredited independent hygienist is developing a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) specific for the site.

The plan will include the appropriate guidelines and strategies to safely remove equipment and remediate the site in preparation for demolition.

Equipment is removed

With the RAP in place, specialised contractors will be hired to remove any equipment, computers and other belongings from the existing school site.

All work will be guided by the hygienist and in accordance with the RAP.

During this stage, you may see people wearing hazmat suits as a precautionary measure.

Contaminated material is removed

With the equipment removed, remediation works will begin by removing any materials which may contain hazardous materials. This can include things like vinyl flooring, wall sheeting, pipes, air conditioning units, roof structures, etc.

All materials will be disposed of in strict accordance with the projects RAP and overseen by an independent hygienist.

Demolish the buildings

With internal elements removed, demolition of the buildings will take place. During this stage, a range of measures will be in place to ensure the safety of workers and the broader community.

These measures may include additional fencing, signage, dust suppression measures such as hosing down dust, use of a spotter and the use of personal protective equipment like hazmat suits by site workers and air monitoring.

Details of planned works at the site will be shared with the community and surrounding neighbours of Willyama High School as we progress through the demolition.



Example of a recently built high school in Jerrabomberra

The way we build schools NSW Education Facilities Standard and Guidelines

When designing new schools or school upgrades, we are guided by the NSW Education Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG). The EFSG are based on years of educational research and engineering expertise.

The EFSG underpin every planning, design and development decision as they include a wide range of best-practice design and technical specifications that provide clear parameters for our project teams and industry partners to use when building new or upgraded schools.

The EFSG has been developed to ensure we design and deliver the very best learning environments that support our teachers and meet the learning needs of all our students now and into the future. Facilities are designed to suit individual student population whilst maintaining equitable environments for students across NSW.

These guidelines are essential in delivering more uniform, school designs and quality learning environments that:

- are safe, functional, and adaptable
- meet the learning needs of all our students
- support those with disabilities
- are fit for purpose to deliver the curriculum
- meet and comply with all NSW legal and policy requirements
- use resources sustainably to minimise their impact on the local environment
- deliver value for money and reduce long term maintenance costs.



You can find out more about the EFSG by going to edu.nsw.link/EFSG or scanning the QR code below.

Example of core facilities delivered across NSW

School library



Covered outdoor learning areas



Administration facilities

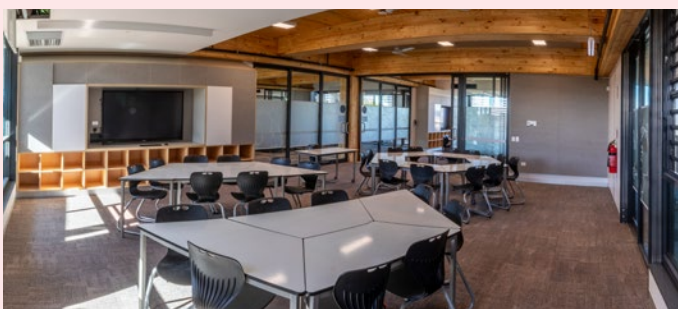


Multipurpose hall



Example of classrooms delivered across NSW

General classrooms



Woodwork rooms



Science rooms



Hospitality and kitchen spaces



Frequently asked questions

When will construction start at the site of the new school?

We are still in the master planning stage for the project. The next stage of the project will be to appoint subject matter experts and a building contractor to progress the design. The project will require development approval. The formal process of gaining this approval is called the statutory planning approval process, which, along with the completion of the design, will establish a timeline for construction starting and finishing.

Will Broken Hill High School receive any upgrades?

The NSW Government is committed to improving facilities at Broken Hill High School to support the sustainable future of both schools. While work is underway to rebuild Willyama High School, the department will work with the school leadership of Broken Hill High School to understand what is required and look for ways to deliver improvements. Once Willyama High School is rebuilt, further works for Broken Hill High School can be progressed.

When will the demolition of the existing school start?

We expect that the demolition contractor to be brought on board and remediation and demolition works to start in the coming months.

How will the contaminated material at the school be managed?

The safety and wellbeing of our students, workers and the community is our highest priority.

An accredited independent hygienist is developing a Remediation Action Plan (RAP) specific for the site. The plan will include a set of guidelines and strategies that will need to be followed to safely remove equipment and decontaminate the site in preparation for demolition.

The RAP will outline a range of measures which are necessary for the safe removal of all hazardous material. These measures may include additional fencing, signage, dust suppression measures such as hosing down dust, use of a spotter, the use of personal protective equipment and air monitoring.

All remediation works will be completed by licensed and accredited contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Will the specific factors such as the weather be considered for the rebuild of Willyama HS

While it was noted that the department works from a standardised design and Education Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG) when building a new school, the design for Willyama High School will progress in consultation with the school leadership to ensure that the local specific circumstances, such as extreme climates are considered.

The new school will include climate-responsive features such as air conditioning, openable windows for natural ventilation, and covered walkways. We are also exploring additional measures that go beyond the standard Education Facilities Standards and Guidelines to enhance the school's ability to handle extreme weather conditions common in Broken Hill.

What role will students and staff play in the final design decisions, and how will their input be weighted against standardised guidelines?

Students and staff will have input into specific aspects of the school's design, such as the colour scheme and locations for murals and student artwork. While we must adhere to standardised design guidelines to ensure equity across new school builds, we value the input from the school community and will incorporate their feedback where possible to personalise the new school.

Will the new school design accommodate future expansions if student numbers increase, and how will this be managed?

The new Willyama High School will be master planned to allow for future expansion. While the initial build will meet current and projected demand, the design includes provisions for additional classrooms and facilities if student numbers increase. This ensures that the school can grow in response to the community's needs.

How will the department address concerns about the loss of personalised and historically significant items from the original school?

We understand the deep attachment the community has to some items. While it may not be possible to physically transfer these items to the new school, we are committed to documenting and potentially replicating key features that hold significant sentimental value. This process will be carried out in consultation with the school leadership.

What are the findings of the consultation conducted earlier this year?

Earlier this year, the department consulted with staff, student representatives and the Broken Hill community to voice their thoughts and opinions regarding public secondary education provision in Broken Hill. The consultation was also designed to hear a wide range of views about the facilities needed at the new Willyama High School to set the school up for future success.

The overall feedback reiterated the need to support the new school in meeting the students' cultural, wellbeing and learning needs as well as considering upgrade needs for Broken Hill High School.

The report from this consultation has now been finalised and is publicly available at edu.nsw.link/WHSConsultationOutcomes

How will the department address potential disruptions to students and staff during the demolition and rebuild phases?

Temporary facilities at Broken Hill High School were established from Term 2 to ensure that students continue to receive a high-quality education without interruption. Regular communication with staff, students, and parents will keep everyone informed and allow us to address concerns as they arise.

How will the department ensure that the new facilities will meet the specific vocational education needs of students in Broken Hill?

The new school will feature specialised facilities, including industry-standard wood and metal workshops, a commercial kitchen for hospitality, and agricultural spaces. These facilities will support the strong focus on vocational education in Broken Hill.

What steps are being taken to make sure the new school is accessible and inclusive for students of all abilities?

The new school will fully comply with accessibility requirements, providing a safe and inclusive environment for students of all abilities. This includes accessible classrooms, outdoor areas, and specialist facilities designed to accommodate and support students with additional needs.

You can sign up to the projects project's mailing list by using the contact us form on the Willyama High School rebuild project page at www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au.

Stay informed

For more information about this project, contact School Infrastructure NSW:

Website: schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

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