

# Ashtonfield Public School

## Community Update | 14 May 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

In July 2021, upgrade works were completed at Ashtonfield Public School. This delivered:

- upgrade and extension of the administration building, library, and school hall
- canteen refurbishment
- new building with 12 new classrooms with flexible learning spaces.

Due to the location of the construction work onsite at the time, the Adele Crescent school access gate was closed in 2020 and has since remained closed. This has created drop-off and pick-up challenges for the school community and as a result, affected traffic in the surrounding area.

The NSW Department of Education has been engaging with Maitland City Council to facilitate reopening the gate, as required by the development approval (DA) for the upgrade work.

In July 2023, the school community received a [newsletter detailing a comprehensive transport review](#) conducted by the NSW Department of Education and transport planning consultants. This review focused on assessing the pedestrian, bike, and vehicle access arrangements around the school premises.

Based on the findings of this review, the department has developed an initial School Transport and Traffic Management Plan, and this has been submitted to Maitland City Council for review. Further information and consultation is required with council relating to the plan.

The plan aims at minimising traffic issues during peak times and includes measures to increase the use of active and public transport, open additional entrances and exits to the school and more kiss-and-drop zones.

It includes infrastructure improvements and safety measures to manage traffic flow and ensure the safety of students, especially younger students, during drop-off and pick-up times.

The council is an important partner in implementing the School Transport and Traffic Management Plan. We are working closely with them to ensure any proposed changes align with local regulations and benefit both the school and wider community.

### NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure

Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)

Phone: 1300 482 651

[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

## Next steps

We are working with council on what the next steps are regarding the School Transport and Traffic Management Plan. We will communicate when more information becomes available including community consultation.

We anticipate that implementation of an approved plan will require some infrastructure improvements in and around the school. We do not have a timeline of when these improvements will be made at this time and we will keep the school community updated.

We value the key role that parents play in supporting the safety and wellbeing of our students. We encourage parents to continue to follow the guidelines in place for managing transport and access in and around the school, especially during drop off and pick up times.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority.

We will provide regular updates through community and works notifications. Parents and carers can also reach out to the department on the details below and remain informed through the council's feedback process when this becomes available.

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