



Broadwater Public School

Project update | February 2024

Project overview

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding flood impacted schools in the Northern Rivers region, ensuring we build back better with more flood resilient schools for local students and local communities.

As part of this commitment, a project is underway to rebuild Broadwater Public School, after it was extensively damaged during floods in early 2022.

The project will deliver new, modern flood resilient classrooms and school facilities, including a library, canteen, administration area, undercover learning area, yarning circle and landscaping to complement Broadwater Public School's surroundings.

Progress summary

- The Development Application (DA) for the project has been lodged with Richmond Valley Council. We will share the link to the DA when it has been published online for public exhibition.
- The school design is now complete and new furniture for the classrooms, library and staff and administration spaces has been chosen by the school.
- As the new school is modular by design, we have been able to commence off-site manufacturing of the modules for the first floor. The ground floor will be built using traditional methods. These works cannot commence until development consent is received.

Next steps

- Off-site manufacturing of the first floor of the school will continue. The next stage of this work involves installing the services, including power, air conditioning and hydraulic pipe work.
- A [Connecting with Country workshop](#) will be held with the school and Aboriginal stakeholders to identify how we can reflect Country and incorporate storytelling into the rebuilt Broadwater Public School.
- The project team and Richmond Valley Council will meet with the Regional Planning Panel to discuss the project.
- Once the necessary planning approvals are in place, flood damaged school buildings can be demolished, and construction can begin.

FAQS

Why have you submitted a Development Application (DA) instead of Review of Environmental Factors (REF)?

SINSW is rebuilding nine schools in the Northern Rivers region after the 2022 floods and each has varying planning pathways depending on the locations and issues that need to be considered at each school.

A REF planning pathway was initially considered for the Broadwater Public School however it has been decided that a DA pathway is preferable. This is due to the nature and location of the Broadwater Public School site, and the need for the assessment to be rigorous and transparent. SINSW and Richmond Valley Council will continue to work collaboratively together to resolve any questions that may arise during the planning approval process. As the application is regionally significant, the application will be determined by the Northern Regional Planning Panel after assessment by Council.

Will this affect the school design?

No. The building design is now complete and has been endorsed by the Project Reference Group (PRG), which includes school representatives. The landscaping design will be complete following the Connecting with Country and signage workshop organised for later this month. Both the endorsed school and preliminary landscape designs have been included in the DA submission.

How long will rebuilding Broadwater Public School take?

We understand and share the community's desire to see the school rebuilt as soon as possible. We are working with the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Richmond Valley Council to address the complexities of rebuilding on the Broadwater Public School site as quickly as possible, while at the same time ensuring the rebuilt school meets current planning requirements.

Once the necessary planning approvals are place, demolition, civil works, inground services and installation of the new school are expected to take approximately 6 months, weather permitting.

Keeping you informed

We will continue to keep the school community informed as the project progresses and updates will be published to the project webpage <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/b/broadwater-public-school.html>.

If you have questions or concerns you can also contact us via 1300 482 651 or schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.gov.au.

