

Rebuilding Lismore South Public School

Consultation summary | February 2023

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding Lismore South Public School after it was extensively damaged by floods in early 2022.

Talking with relevant agencies, stakeholders and the school community is an important part of the planning process that will lead to the rebuild.

During Term 4 2023, we consulted with LSPS students, staff and families. Feedback from that process is one of the inputs that will help determine a preferred option for the future of Lismore South Public School.

Other considerations will include:

- ✓ School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) policies and criteria for the selection of school sites;
- ✓ information from the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Lismore City Council about future housing and infrastructure planning.

While Lismore South Public School is rebuilt, the Department of Education and school staff are continuing to work to ensure it remains a great place to learn and teach.

Who we consulted with

Consultation during Term 4 2023 focussed on what needs to be considered when thinking about rebuilding Lismore South Public School.

Consultation occurred through:

- Workshops with more than 40 representatives from the LSPS school community including:
 - Students
 - Teachers and staff
 - Parents and carers.
- A survey targeting the school community that was open from 10-17 November 2023 (7 people completed the survey).

What we heard

Key themes

Theme 1: Lismore South Public School is a great little school!

- The school is highly valued by students and parents.
- There is high quality of learning and teaching for kids with varying needs.
- Focus on individual students as a person - not just on their education.
- Staff link students and families up with support where needed.
- Kids of different age groups look out for each other.
- A great place to make friends.

Theme 2: Lismore South Public School is part of this community.


- The school is “the heart” of South Lismore.
- It is multigenerational and has a strong history in the area.
- Most people living in South Lismore have some connection to the school.
- Dropping off a child here is “like leaving them with family”.
- It was the only safe refuge in the area during the floods.

Theme 3: We would like to stay in, or very close to, South Lismore

- The school in its present location is highly accessible to people living in South Lismore as well as people working in Lismore.
- It is easy for most people to get to – walking, on a bike or in a car.
- There is a preference to see the rebuild on site and this option should be fully pursued, however there is also some recognition that this may not be possible.
- Any new site would need to be close to South Lismore to retain the school’s accessibility to, and connection with, this community.

Theme 4: Work with the environment.

- Floods are part of life up here. The design and operation of the school needs to enable easy re-establishment following a flood to minimize disruption to school life. This could include flood friendly, easy to clean surfaces and materials, placing critical infrastructure above the flood level and providing a support team for packing up before a flood and cleaning up afterwards.
- If the school is in a new location, it should be accessible from South Lismore during minor floods.
- Consider that the school needs to operate through long periods of wet weather when designing the rebuild.
- Incorporate outdoor learning spaces in nature.

	<h2>Considerations for a rebuild on the existing site</h2> <p>NB: Many suggestions below also apply to a new location</p>	<h2>Considerations if rebuilding on nearby location</h2>
<h3>Overall site improvements/ considerations</h3> 	<p>Improve drop off and pick up arrangements and an off-street bus parking area</p> <p>Better integrate the preschool with the primary school</p> <p>Ensure full accessibility for people with disabilities</p> <p>There were differing views around the desirability of a 3-story school with most saying it would be OK</p> <p>Resolve drainage of sport fields and car parks</p> <p>Where possible keep the established trees that are on site.</p>	<p>Making sure the location is still readily accessible for people in South Lismore for cars, bike and walking</p> <p>Co-locating as a standalone primary school with Richmond River High Campus</p> <p>Would need to think carefully about how the strong history and links with the South Lismore community would be retained</p> <p>Some concerns that the "family feel" of the school could be lost</p> <p>Could serve needs of both South Lismore and new residents if on the Northern Plateau</p> <p>Ensure full accessibility for people with disabilities.</p>
<h3>Amenities and facilities</h3> 	<p>Use under crofts to good effect as outdoor play and learning spaces</p> <p>A new hall which opens onto a covered outdoor area</p> <p>Flexible classrooms</p> <p>Visible support and supervision and timeout spaces</p> <p>Differing views on playgrounds - staff generally wanted to see separate K-2 and Year 3-6 playgrounds parents wanted to see integrated play spaces</p> <p>Incorporate vegetable gardens and sports amenities i.e. handball courts into the new school.</p>	<p>Good supervision and support spaces</p> <p>Hall opening onto undercover outdoor area</p> <p>Gardens and trees as places for outdoor learning</p> <p>Space for the kitchen / breakfast program</p> <p>Play areas that are well drained and can be used after wet weather</p> <p>Climate responsive - still design in under cover areas even if not in flood area.</p>
<h3>Flood resilience</h3> 	<p>Make sure school can be readily packed up and that critical infrastructure is above the flood level</p> <p>Use "flood friendly" materials and design so the school can be quickly cleaned and down time is minimised</p> <p>Design in separation of public and non-public elevated spaces so school can still serve as a flood refuge</p> <p>Some concerns were expressed about extent of flood resilience of a rebuilt school in South Lismore - "we couldn't go through that again".</p>	<p>Is there enough flood free flat land available to build a school with good grounds?</p> <p>Loss of access from South Lismore across the river in minor floods</p> <p>Loss of a flood refuge in South Lismore if the school is not close by.</p>

What's happening next?

We thank all involved for their contribution to the consultation. The feedback received in this stage has given the team much to consider.

We will continue to investigate the viability of the existing school site and other options. SINSW and the Department of Education will then identify a preferred option for the rebuild of Lismore South Public School. It is expected that we will be able to talk with you about a preferred option in early 2024.

Stay informed

We will continue to update the community about the next steps in rebuilding Lismore South Public School. You can stay informed and find our Planning Updates and FAQs and upcoming events on the School Infrastructure NSW website or by scanning the QR code.



Contact us

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