

Blakebrook Public School

Flood Recovery Update

29 March 2022

Supporting flood impacted schools

The NSW Department of Education is coordinating an emergency response effort that is unprecedented in terms of scale and impact. A large number of schools in the Northern Rivers region have damage to either the entire site or some buildings and facilities.

What is happening at Blakebrook Public School

The whole Blakebrook Public School site was impacted by flood waters and is currently closed for cleaning and remediation. Buildings and grounds have been cleared, stripped and cleaned.

Current status

- Students are learning from Goolmangar Public School, which has enough learning spaces for the extra children.
- An extra, demountable toilet block has arrived at Goolmangar and is expected to be available for use before the end of March 2022.
- Work has started to repair flood damaged facilities and put a temporary 'pop-up' school on the Blakebrook Public School grounds so students can return to their usual site as soon as possible.
- Foundations have been built and temporary buildings are on their way. Once they have arrived, work will start to make them ready for use.

Next steps

- Our current priority is to make sure all students and teachers in the region that have been displaced by flooding have suitable temporary accommodation, which are buildings used as teaching and learning spaces as well as other core facilities.
- Teams are working as quickly as possible, while prioritising the safety of our students, staff and contractors.
- Planning and due diligence is underway to understand the full scope of work required at the Blakebrook Public School site to meet local needs for permanent education infrastructure.

We thank you for your patience as we work through this huge program of work. We will continue to share information with you as work progresses.

What else is happening in the region

The School Infrastructure regional office has inspected all schools in flood impacted areas. We continue to work with emergency response organisations to remove rubbish, clean and secure affected sites.

Many school sites have been able to resume operating, while some students have been relocated to alternative sites so that their learning can continue. Our current priority is to source, deliver, install and handover temporary buildings to accommodate displaced students. The timing of all work and handover of temporary spaces is subject to local weather conditions.

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