

Main Arm Upper 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 Main Arm Upper Public School

- The Main Arm Upper Public School site was significantly damaged by flooding and is currently closed.
- There has been structural damage to some buildings, power has been affected, and there are biohazardous materials present, including mould and contaminants in mud.
- Contractors have been engaged to undertake safety testing, deep cleaning and remediation.

Current status

- Students are learning at Durrumbul Public School, which has enough learning spaces for the extra children.
- Work has started to repair flood damaged facilities and planning is underway for a temporary, 'pop-up' school on the Main Arm Upper Public School grounds so students can return to their usual site as soon as possible.
- Temporary buildings have been ordered and work will start soon to prepare the site and install foundations.
- Access to Main Arm Upper Public School is strictly prohibited at this time without prior authorisation from School Infrastructure NSW who are managing the site while the school is non-operational.

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 Main Arm Upper 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.

For more information contact:

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