

# Murwillumbah Education Campus

Frequently asked questions | May 2023

## What is the status of the Murwillumbah Education Campus project?

The NSW Government has confirmed its commitment to retaining Murwillumbah's two high schools and two primary schools as separate schools.

As a result, the infrastructure project to construct a new combined primary school and a new combined high school as part of an integrated education campus at the Murwillumbah High School site, will no longer proceed as originally planned.

While buildings at the Murwillumbah High School site had been prepared for removal, no demolition and construction contracts had been awarded and major works had not started yet. All infrastructure-related activities are now on hold.

If refurbishment or upgrade works are required at Murwillumbah High School or the other schools, there may be opportunities to apply some of the project due diligence and governance arrangements from the MEC project to streamline the infrastructure planning and design process.

## What are the next steps?

The next step will be a consultation process so school communities can provide feedback about the current school experience and what's most important to them as the department implements the return to four separate schools.

Consultation will include face-to-face workshops for the people who are impacted the most by changes to school operations – that is students, staff and families of the four schools. Feedback will also be encouraged from the broader community.

Further details about the timing of consultation and how to have your say will be provided as they become available.

## What does this mean for Murwillumbah's primary schools?

Murwillumbah East Public School and Murwillumbah Public School, which are currently operating as separate schools at their usual locations, will remain where they are and now have certainty over their future.

## For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW

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

Phone: 1300 482 651

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### **What does this mean for the combined Murwillumbah Learning Community High School?**

The combined high school will continue to operate while consultation is undertaken with the school community. The exact timing and approach for the high school transition will continue to be developed following consultation with a focus on providing the best education and wellbeing outcomes for all students, including seniors and students with additional learning or support needs.

### **Why isn't Murwillumbah High School returning to its old site immediately?**

The former Murwillumbah High School and Wollumbin High School are currently operating as one school. The combined school is operating on one timetable with one set of education programs and administrative systems and processes.

The department is committed to taking the time necessary to separate the two high schools in a way that minimises disruption to students and staff.

In addition, the Murwillumbah High School site is not currently ready to accommodate students or staff. The site had already been prepared for demolition with all furniture and equipment removed. Many existing buildings are near the end of their usable life and would require removal or substantial upgrading.

The department has started a process to investigate the scope of work that may be required to provide appropriate learning spaces and facilities at the Murwillumbah High School site. If a development application is required for the work this would need to be considered when developing the timeline for re-occupation of the site.

### **What should I do if I want to enrol my child in high school now or for 2024?**

Families should continue to enrol students in the combined high school. The school name on the enrolment form should be “Murwillumbah High School” – the code combined school is currently using. When the schools separate, the department will contact families impacted and students' enrolment will return to their locally zoned high school. Out of area enrolment applications will be assessed in accordance with the department's enrolment policy, which considers exceptional circumstances that may apply. The department will always ensure continuity of enrolment and learning for enrolled students.

### **What does this mean for staff?**

The staffing maintenance agreement associated with the Murwillumbah Education Campus project will be honoured. That means 2020 staffing levels will be maintained until the end of the 2025 school year, as previously committed. Once the staffing maintenance agreement period expires, staff allocations will be determined in accordance with the NSW Department of Education staffing formula.

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### **Will each of the four schools get new or upgraded learning spaces and facilities?**

The department has commenced a process to understand what work may be required to provide appropriate learning spaces and facilities to meet education needs at the four existing schools.

Work may include refurbishment of existing spaces to provide contemporary learning environments or more extensive upgrades if required.

As with all public schools in NSW, the number of learning spaces and type of facilities a school is eligible for is determined based on current and projected enrolment demand and the department's Education Facilities and Standards Guidelines (EFSG).

School Infrastructure NSW will lead the infrastructure planning process and share information with the community as it becomes available.

### **What will be done to reduce flood risk for Murwillumbah East Public School?**

Reducing flood risk for Murwillumbah East Public School is a key priority for the department. Options available to mitigate the risk will be considered as part of the infrastructure planning process. Further information will be shared with the community when available.

### **How can the community stay informed?**

As the project comes to a conclusion, updates will continue to be published on the School Infrastructure NSW website <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/m/murwillumbah-education-campus-project.html>. Information will also be shared via school communication channels.

If you have questions or feedback, please contact us by phone at 1300 482 651 or by email at [murwillumbaheschools@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:murwillumbaheschools@det.nsw.edu.au).

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