



Murwillumbah Education Campus – Project Announcement

The final business case for the Murwillumbah Education Campus (MEC) is expected to be submitted by the end of June 2020. The impending approval of the business case offers an opportunity for the public announcement of the project scope and indicative timeline so that stakeholder and community engagement can commence.

Key information

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) is progressing plans for the amalgamation of Murwillumbah East Public School, Murwillumbah Public School, Murwillumbah High School and Wollumbin High School to create the new P-12 MEC at the Murwillumbah High School site.

An update on the current status of the MEC project is provided at **Tab A**.

Consultation with affected principals regarding the project and draft master plan commenced in early 2020 (see DGS20/316) and is ongoing. Input from principals contributed to preparation of the draft final business case, which was submitted to NSW Treasury for feedback on 17 April 2020. The final business case is expected to be submitted to NSW Treasury and the NSW Restart Program by the end of June 2020.

A scoping and design process is also underway for early works at Murwillumbah High School to de-risk the site and prepare for future development. Procurement for early works at Murwillumbah High School is expected to commence once the business case is approved with site establishment forecast for mid-2020.

Early works at Murwillumbah East Public School are also expected to be completed by the end of June 2020.

Publicly announcing the amalgamation project will enable communications and engagement with stakeholders and the community and provide context for early works at Murwillumbah High School and Murwillumbah East Public School.

Should approval be provided to announce the project, SINSW will implement the communication and engagement activities outlined in the **context** section.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with implementing the community engagement approach as outlined in this briefing.

Recommendation

That the Minister:

- Approves the public announcement of the MEC, and
- Notes the community engagement approach in support of the announcement.

Endorsed

Geoff Waterhouse
A/Executive Director, Infrastructure Planning

Approved

Anthony Manning
Chief Executive, School Infrastructure NSW

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MINISTER MITCHELL

See over for Minister's comments

Murwillumbah Education Campus – Project Announcement**Rationale**

Following the start of engagement with the school principals, it is important to provide the school communities with information and guidance on when to communicate publicly about the projects. This approach will help reduce the risk of information reaching the public ahead of a formal announcement.

The upcoming State Significant Development (SSD) application will require early consultation with local stakeholders and communities. The public announcement of the project will ensure the consultation occurs in a timely and targeted manner and that SSD application obligations are met.

As early works progress at two schools, it will be important to clarify the purpose of the work with the school and local communities as the work can no longer be aligned with the previously announced projects.

Context

Upgrades to Murwillumbah East Public School and Murwillumbah High School were announced following the 2018 budget. The upgrades were originally forecast to start in mid-2019 and be completed by late 2020 and late 2021, respectively. The SINSW website has since been updated to indicate a start date of mid-2021 and completion date of late 2022 and early 2023 respectively.

Following the strategic review of the Far Northern NSW Schools package in 2019, a determination was approved in February 2020 to amalgamate Murwillumbah Public School, Murwillumbah East Public School, Murwillumbah High School and Wollumbin High School to create the MEC.

The Murwillumbah High School site has been identified as the most appropriate location for the MEC due to its location, size and ability to accommodate the complex staff, student, parent and community interactions associated with an amalgamation. It is also suitable for use as a natural disaster community evacuation facility.

Early works commenced at Murwillumbah East Public School in December 2019 to rectify flood damaged infrastructure and refurbish and demolish some buildings. These works are expected to be completed in June 2020. There are high levels of public interest in the progress of the remainder of the previously announced upgrade.

A scoping and design process has commenced for early works at Murwillumbah High School which will involve refurbishment of some spaces and demolition of some buildings to prepare the site for development as an education campus.

Communication and engagement approach

Extensive communication and engagement is proposed throughout planning for the MEC. SINSW will continue with its established communication and engagement approach by keeping stakeholders, the school community, and local residents updated about the plans and provide an opportunity to provide feedback.

SENSITIVE: NSW GOVERNMENT

Document tendered by	Hon A. D'Adon MLC
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Resolved	Yes / No