

# Blakebrook Public School

## Project Update | September 2024



Image caption: Artist's impression Blakebrook PS

### Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding flood affected schools in the Northern Rivers region, ensuring we build back better with more flood resilient schools for local students and local communities.

### Project overview

As part of this commitment a project is underway to rebuild Blakebrook Public School after it was extensively damaged by flooding in 2022. The project will deliver a raised flood resilient school with four modern classrooms, a library, canteen and administration spaces, as well as an undercover play and learning area and new landscaping.

### Planning update

While the main works Development Application (DA) to rebuild Blakebrook Public School continues to progress, the Department is actively engaging with other agencies, including the NSW Reconstruction Authority, on opportunities to further accelerate the project wherever possible. We will provide updates on this work as it progresses.

The DA for the school rebuild was submitted to Lismore City Council in January 2024. As communicated in our [August Project Update](#), as part of the assessment process, the Northern Regional Planning Panel issued a number of Requests for Information (RFI's) about the application to rebuild Blakebrook Public School back on its original school site. The RFI's included evacuation measures, further consultation with the SES, additional detail on the structural integrity of the proposed design, and on street parking.

We are continuing to work with Council and provide responses to the RFI's and address the Planning Panel's feedback. In addition, we are working with Council to assess changes required to the bus interchange to improve student and pedestrian safety.



Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

## Transition from temporary Goolmangar site

Offsite manufacturing of the new school building is now over 50% complete and the supportive steel gantry is well underway (see photograph to the right). The temporary school at Blakebrook has also been removed in readiness for demolition of the flood damaged school buildings.

Given our experiences rebuilding Empire Vale Public School and Wardell Public School, once planning approval is in place, we expect the construction of Blakebrook Public School to take 6-7 months after the start of demolition, weather permitting.

This means that Blakebrook Public School will return to their temporary school site at Goolmangar in Term 1 2025, which would be the case even if approval had been received this month.

While this is not the outcome we were hoping for, we are working to open the school as soon as possible next year and will time the opening of the new school facilities around Blakebrook Public School's operational requirements.



## Next steps

- As a condition of consent to demolish the existing school buildings, Lismore City Council required a Heritage Interpretation Strategy to be developed and approved before work can begin. This strategy has been submitted for Council's approval. We will work with the school to implement the Heritage Interpretation Strategy in a way that celebrates and commemorates the long history of Blakebrook Public School at the existing school site. This includes the appropriate relocation of the marble Great War Honour Roll.
- We will continue to work with the school and Blakebrook Public School P&C to make the temporary Goolmangar site as comfortable as possible and ensure that we can begin demolition and construction of the new school as soon as the planning approvals are in place.

## More information



You can find more information about the project on the Blakebrook Public School flood recovery [project page](#) or by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions about this project, you can contact School Infrastructure NSW during business hours on the contact details below.