



# Blakebrook Public School

Project update | May 2024

## Project overview

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding flood impacted schools in the Northern Rivers region, ensuring we build back better with more flood resilient schools for local students and local communities. As part of this commitment, a project is underway to rebuild Blakebrook Public School.

The project will include new modern classrooms, a library, canteen and administration areas. It will also include landscaping, tree planting, an undercover learning area.

## Progress summary

- In preparation for the rebuilding of Blakebrook Public School, students are currently learning at Goolmangar Public School. This temporary arrangement ensures continuity of education while construction work takes place at Blakebrook Public School. Blakebrook's learning resources and furniture were moved during the April 2024 school holidays and a shuttle bus has been provided to take students between Blakebrook and Goolmangar each morning and afternoon.
- We have obtained development approval from Lismore City Council to demolish the existing buildings on the Blakebrook school site. As a condition of this approval, we will be implementing a Heritage Interpretation Strategy to document and celebrate the site's historical and heritage significance.
- Before proceeding with demolition, we must first remove the temporary school from the Blakebrook Public School site. Once we receive notification that the Development Application (DA) for the new school is imminent, demolition work will commence.
- The public exhibition period for the Development Application to rebuild the school ([DA 23/337](#)) closed on 18 March 2024 and the DA is currently being reviewed by Lismore City Council. The school rebuild is valued at more than \$5 million which triggers the requirement for determination by the [Northern Region Planning Panel](#).



- Connecting with Country workshops have been held with the school to ensure the Bundjalung culture and country is reflected in the school design, landscaping and storytelling.

## Next steps

**Temporary school** - now that students have transitioned temporarily to Goolmangar, we are preparing to remove the empty temporary school buildings at Blakebrook PS. We will work with the school to ensure the works do not impact morning and afternoon bus times and will advise the community ahead of work beginning.

**Construction approval** – The Regional Planning Panel have scheduled a briefing to discuss the construction DA (DA 23/337) later this month. During this meeting, the panel will discuss Lismore City Council’s assessment and may also request further information relating to the submission. These are called Requests for Information (RFIs) and are a normal part of the assessment process. We will respond to any RFIs as quickly as possible.

**Demolition** - Once the temporary school is removed and we have certainty over the timeframe for the construction DA (23/337) approval, the building contractor will take possession of site and will begin their site establishment, followed by commencement of demolition works.

**Off-site manufacturing** - The contractor has confirmed that off-site manufacturing of the new Blakebrook Public School building will begin this month.

## Keeping you informed

Please be assured that we are working to rebuild Blakebrook Public School as quickly as possible so students can return to their brand-new school buildings. Once all approvals are in place, we expect the school rebuild to be completed in six months, weather permitting.

We will continue to update you about progress throughout the planning and construction phases of rebuilding.

If you have questions or concerns you can contact us on 1300 482 651 or via email at [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.gov.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.gov.au). You can also find information on the [Blakebrook Public School project page](#) or by scanning the QR code.

