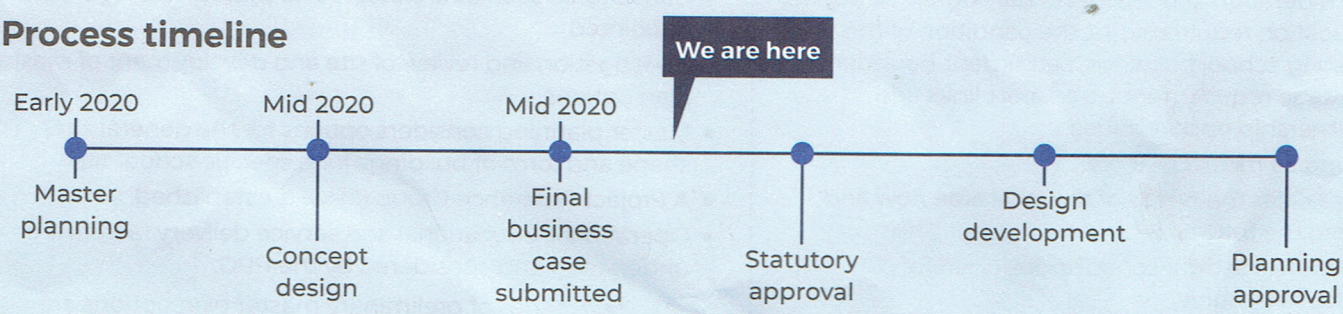
NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

Epping schools

Planning update

August 2020

Process timeline



Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing $6.7 billion over four years to deliver more than 190 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. In addition, a record $1.3 billion is being spent on school maintenance over five years. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

The NSW Department of Education is committed to delivering new and upgraded schools for communities across NSW. The delivery of these important projects is essential to the future learning needs of our students and supports growth in the local economy.

Planning for an upgrade to Epping West Public School

We are planning an upgrade at Epping West Public School to support the growing student community. It is proposed to deliver new flexible learning spaces as well as upgrades to core facilities.

Planning for a new primary school in Epping

Planning for the new primary school in Epping is underway. Proposed works involve the establishment of a new primary school at the former TAFE NSW campus on Chelmsford Avenue, to meet future enrolment growth. It is proposed to deliver new flexible learning spaces as well as a range of core facilities.

Progress summary and next steps

We are progressing master plans for each school and a project consultant team has been appointed. The architects have developed early concept designs for the Epping West Public School upgrade and the new primary school in Epping.

Both projects will need to go through a statutory approvals process and other approvals to proceed.

We have now submitted Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements requests for each school. This is the first step in the planning approval process and a key milestone on the path to delivering the new facilities. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) will assess the project and advise the project team on the studies that need to be included as part of the main development application.

After the application is lodged with DPIE, the project will be placed on public exhibition, allowing the community and other stakeholders to make comments. Once the development application has been approved, construction work can start.

The project team will keep the school community informed of progress and seek feedback at key project milestones. Please stay up to date through school newsletters and the School Infrastructure NSW website.

How can I get involved?

We are committed to working together with our school communities and other stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students. Your feedback on this project is important to us. For more information, or to ask a question or make a comment, please email us at: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au.

Changing the way we communicate

The health and safety of our students, staff and community are our priorities. We are temporarily changing some of the ways we keep you informed about our projects in your community to account for physical distancing measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Until further notice we will share information with our communities online instead of in person. Our information hotline and email address will continue to operate as normal.

Meeting future enrolment growth in Epping

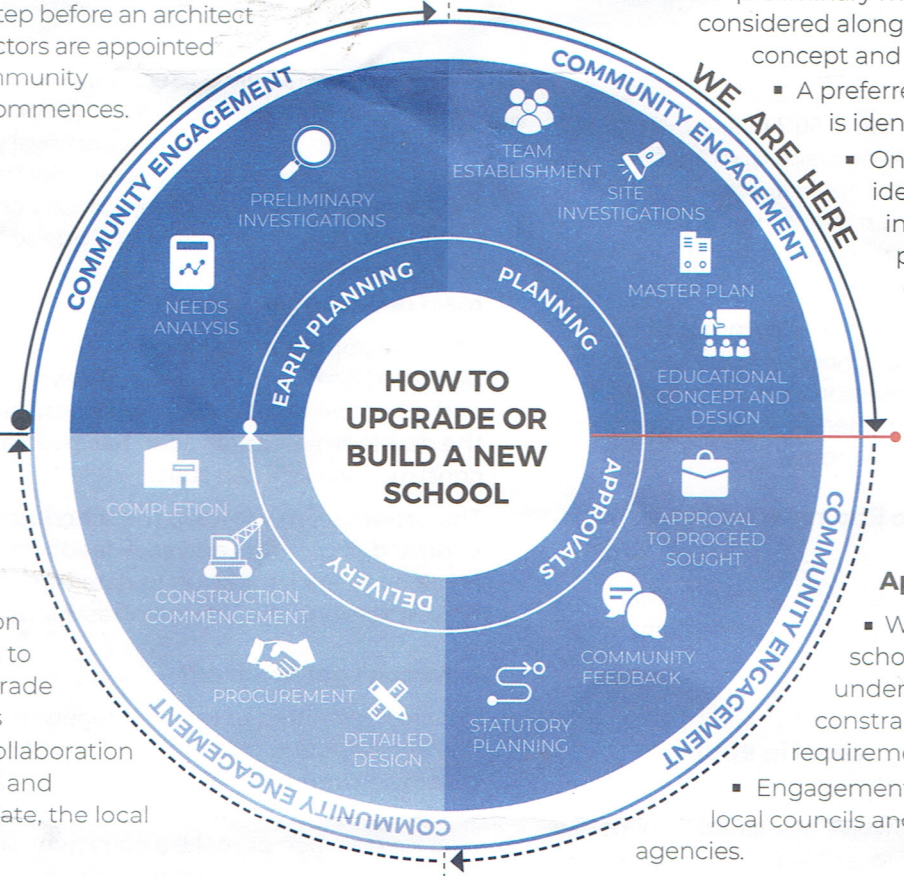
This diagram takes you through the journey of upgrading or building a new school.

Early planning

- Consideration and studies of demographic trends, education requirements, the condition of the existing school buildings, catchment boundaries, heritage requirements, transport links and partnership opportunities.
- Doing so means that we:
  - consider the needs of the local area now and into the future.
  - ensure the right school is designed for the community.
- An important step before an architect or other contractors are appointed and official community engagement commences.

Planning

- Consultants such as architects and project managers are appointed.
- Investigation and review of site and development of master plan options.
- Master planning considers options for the general size, shape and form of buildings for a specific school site.
- A Project Reference Group (PRG) is established.
- Operational, educational and service delivery factors are understood and considered by the PRG.
- A series of preliminary master plan options are considered along with the educational concept and design for the school.
- A preferred concept design option is identified.
- Once a preferred option is identified approval is needed in order to progress from planning through to project delivery.



Subject to government approval to proceed

Delivery

- The construction works program to deliver the upgrade to the school is developed in collaboration with the school and where appropriate, the local community.
- Ongoing consultation with Principal, staff and other school users.
- Throughout detailed design and construction updates are provided to the local community.

Approvals

- Workshops continue with school and local community to understand challenges and constraints and identify future requirements.
- Engagement of technical specialists, local councils and other government agencies.
- Statutory planning approval process.
- Opportunity for local community to view and provide feedback upon submission of the Development Application.
- Scope of work and concept design is further defined.

For more information

The SINSW website will continue to have up-to-date information about projects in your area. You can also continue to contact us via our community information line and email.

School Infrastructure NSW
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