



Department of Education

A new high school for Ballina EIS Community Contribution

4 November 2016

Stakeholder Engagement

In February 2015, the Department of Education announced its decision to build a new school for Ballina that combines students in years 7 to 12 from Ballina High School (Ballina High) and Southern Cross School K-12 (Southern Cross) in one location. The new school, due to open in term one 2019, will be built on the existing Ballina High School site

In 2015, a stakeholder engagement consultancy, Straight Talk, was commissioned to help plan, facilitate and report on engagement activities to discuss a range of topics to plan for the new school (this is known as stage two of the consultation). This consultation process has provided the Department of Education (DoE) with detailed community feedback findings and insights to shape the Masterplan and Education Principles.

GHD was engaged in 2016, and is responsible for taking this stakeholder engagement process from concept design through to construction.

Engaging the community

Following the endorsement of the draft concept Master Plan for the new school in early May 2016, GHD (in consultation with the schools and DOE) commenced a regular schedule of fortnightly information booths that provided opportunities for people to talk to the team (both at the schools and at the local shopping centres/other public spaces) to seek further information and provide feedback.

The community's comments have been considered and where applicable have fed into the design.

Activities

The communications and stakeholder engagement activities undertaken were designed to ensure that both the school community and Ballina community were informed about the project and had opportunities to ask questions and submit feedback before the SSDA was lodged. The following engagement activities have been undertaken as part of the Draft Concept Design and Schematic Design phases:

Activity	Location / dates
Monthly project updates	March, April, May, June & August
Project 1800 number / email address	Ongoing
Updates to project website	Monthly - ongoing
Project Review Group (PRG) Meetings	11 May, 15 June, 20 July & 12 October 2016
Information booths	Ballina fair Shopping Centre - 26 May / 2, 4, 16, 18, 29 June / 2 July / 13 & 27 August / 10 & 24 September / 8 & 22 October 2016 Ballina High School - 26 May / 2 June / 17 June / 30 June / 21 October 2016 Southern Cross School - 26 May / 3 June / 16 June / 1 July / 20 October 2016
Technical information booths	Ballina High School – 13 May 2016 Southern Cross School – 12 May & 28 June 2016
Feedback form	Available at all information booths

Activity	Location / dates
One-on-one meetings with directly affected landholders	St Francis Xavier Primary School – 24 August St Francis Xavier Church – 24 August Cherry Street Bowls Club – 24 August

Summary of Feedback Received

Throughout the course of the project, feedback has been received from a number of sources including the project information 1800 number, online via the project website, through the project email address, from Information Booths held at Ballina Fair Shopping Centre and both high schools, at the PRG meetings and also through face-to-face meetings with local businesses and key agency representatives.

The key topics that have been raised by the community include: the design and facilities included in the new high school, in particular issues around parking and air-conditioning; impacts to local traffic; the temporary transitioning of students from Ballina High School to Southern Cross School; community and social issues; construction timing and general information. The below table reflects feedback received up to 31 October 2016.

Topic	Feedback received	Response
Facilities		
Council Indoor Sport Centre	- Council facility is a positive as it will engage the general community. This is a great opportunity to become a coastal hub. - There will be difficulty making it public/private use (i.e.: exam times) - Basketball courts and tennis courts are desired	- Noted - The indoor sport centre is a future stage development and not included in this EIS. - Noted
Performing Art/Theatre	- There needs to be more than one entrance to allow the space to be better utilised. This facility is very well positioned as it allows for succinct integration with hospitality, admin and the cafe. High tiered seating can lead to people fainting on hot days due to ventilation issues. - Dance teachers were promised a dance studio, instead they have been given a gym. - Storage for sets/costumes needs to be in close proximity to the stage, appropriate stage lighting will need to be installed, environmental boarders are needed in dual use court areas to stop classes drifting and sound proofing will be needed. - There is a dance program and large music department at Southern Cross.	- There will be a total of five entrances. One on the north-east corner, two on the south-east and south-west corners (connecting to the entry), and two connecting the space to the storage and changing facilities, this space has a north and south entrance. All three southern entrances will enable the space to interact with hospitality, admin and the café. Ventilation in the space will meet Australian Standards. - The facility is dual use to enable full functionality, although this will not diminish the abilities of the facility. It will be fitted with retractable tiered seating, a 162m² movement studio for dance groups, two learning communities and storage/change room facilities. - Storage facilities will be supplied in the north and south

Topic	Feedback received	Response
		of the facility enabling equipment to be stored where it is needed. Lighting and acoustics will be considered and documented in the detailed design phase. These programs will be catered to in the new school. In addition to the performing art/theatre, there will also be a music facility in the area above the storage/change room facilities.
Indoor Sports Hall	Repositioning of storage could enable a larger sports/performing arts space	The location of storage will be addressed in the Detailed Design phase and is not included in this EIS.
Admin	- Admin needs to be centralised for lock down events. - Teachers need a private staff room due to privacy issues - Archiving (hard and digital), special collections (community sponsored, Indigenous collections, Australians at War, marine study) and 24/7 security access.	- Admin has been strategically placed in a central location at the entry to the school and a private staff lounge is located on level 1. This provides teachers and staff with centralised access to all elements of the school and clear access to Cherry and Swift Streets, while also providing students and the public with ease of access to the admin area. - Staff rooms, staff studies, marking quiet room, teacher's lounge and a range of admin rooms will be provided for staff throughout the building. - A 10m² archive store room will be included in the administration section of the building.
Storage (includes change rooms)	- Change rooms should be a public area to connect all four areas - Large storage areas for science equipment on the first and second floors (where the science areas are). Different sized shelving cupboard and the rooms must be lockable.	- Noted - Storage for Science apparatus and chemicals is included on Levels 1 and 2 adjacent to the Science Learning spaces
Toilets	Make sure there are sufficient toilets available	The number of toilets provided throughout the building, including toilets for those with accessibility needs will meet the facilities standards and guideline requirements.

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Clement Park	The fields flood very easily. They should be raised to reduce the number of mosquitoes breeding and to increase the fields utilisation (the fields are out of bounds for two weeks after flooding events).	The current scope does not include any works associated with the existing fields.
Assembly	Where is the parade area?	The inner courtyard, outdoor courts or indoor sports hall can be used for this purpose.
Specialist Learning Areas		
Agriculture	- Science teacher is happy with the design developments in respect to the agriculture, aquaculture and solar - How is the equipment and animals being relocated? There will be accreditation issues if the animals die. Will the new site be a similar size?	- Noted - The existing aquaculture shed will be remaining thus the fauna in this facility will not be effected. As for agriculture, this will be co-located within the aquaculture shed and also Building C. An arrangement will be made with the school executive to facilitate the movement of the animals from Southern Cross School to Ballina Coast High School, although this has not yet fully been discussed.
Support Learning Community/Special Education	- Years 7 through 12 can't be mixed, seniors (years 10-12) particularly can't mix with the juniors (years 7-9). There needs to be integration planning (primary to high school). Support for learning needs to be achieved in primary school to determine needs for high school. - Isolation of special education students. Integration into mainstream education is important. - In respects to students who will be using this facility, the community team has been told and/or has met children with sensory overload and autism.	- The school will manage the interaction and integration of students in years 7 – 12. - Support learning students will be encouraged to integrate with the whole school, and can access the learning communities directly above via a lift or the stairs. - The concept design originally placed the support learning community between hospitality and wood/steel workshop. Due to the needs of the children in this community, the support learning community swapped places with the wood/steel workshop space. Hospitality and wood/steel workshop now make up a united TAS learning community. This reduces sensory disruptions and enables the addition of a support courtyard.
Art	OH&S issues associated with kilns on a sculpture terrace (referring to ventilation and the number of kilns	The kiln area on the sculpture terrace will be in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines. There will

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	allowed). A year 12 studio room is a common facility. - Two kilns need to be housed on the terrace. Will it be an undercover area that is waterproof? - Delivery of goods is a large issue, why isn't art on the ground floor? Hospitality usually utilise the arts space for sewing, how is this intended to occur (i.e. movement of equipment, not enough space)?	also be a 60m² art learning community for seniors with direct access to the art terrace. - One kiln is the Department of Education standard for a school this size. This space will be enclosed. - Deliveries will be made at the loading dock and then brought to level 1 via the lift, this will be located adjacent to the art space. A textile learning community will be included to accommodate this subject area on the ground floor within the TAS learning community. There will be provision for storage of sewing machines and a change room in this particular learning community.
Hospitality	The Ballina Trade School is based on the Ballina High School site and is relatively new. Will the redevelopment maintain the resources and equipment to deliver the Cert II in Construction and Cert II in Hospitality? There is an industry standard that must be met.	Trade training facilities in accordance with Department of Education guidelines are provided within the design. Existing equipment will be relocated and reused where suitable.
Technology Centre	Green wall – media wall, printing centre, computer banks and interactive game booth.	Equipment will be considered as part of the detailed design phase.
Learning Centre/Student Hub	It's a good pedagogy for seniors as it allows them to move around and be more engaged with the space, increasing its utilisation of the space. It may be too noisy at times though.	Acoustic treatment of this area will be considered and documented in the detailed design phase
Traffic		
Bus	- Community is anxious to find out new bus routes and timetables. - According to a community member bus companies are unsure of what's happening. - Will the bus interchange remain open during construction?	- Interim discussions have been held with both private bus companies that service the school. - Yes, the intention is that the current bus drop off points will remain operational during construction.
Traffic Flow	- Traffic controls will need to be in place at Southern Cross for the next two years. There will be parents picking up and dropping off children and people may park right at the corner of Chickiba Drive. A concern is people speeding. - Increased traffic to the Ballina High School site post redevelopment due to	- Traffic controls at the Southern Cross School will be addressed in the Traffic Management Plan. - Noted

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	the schools size and also due to students coming from other towns to study at the school.	
Drop Off Zones	Community member believes that the drop off zone proposed in the concept design phase will not be equipped for the amount of children at the school.	The traffic plan has re-worked the proposed drop off point in Cherry St which is supported by destination survey data collected from the current students and staff at the school
Pedestrian Crossing	Pedestrian crossing causing issues (issues not defined)	These issues cannot be clearly pinpointed as this stakeholder didn't detail any issues. Pedestrian crossings are essential to the accessibility of any school and will form part of the traffic management plan.
Design		
	- Impressed with building design - It looks good although architects can be overly creative. Will it look like the artist's impressions in real life? Salt/rust issues and pedestrian movement (i.e. does the design allow for all people to leave the school at once?). The hall at Southern Cross is a good example of exposure to the elements causing rust. Ibis birds also get caught in the whirly winds on the roof. - Science teacher is eager to discuss new designs with architects (i.e. technical booths). - The school needs to be more practical and less glamorous (re: \$40 million price tag). - Ensure that the school is able to cater for future growth. - A cleaner believes that the glass on the second floor will be difficult to clean and that they will require elevators to carry their cleaning gear. - The western sun is an issue. The structure suits the lightness of Ballina. - Staggered finishing times could help reduce pedestrian impacts. This currently occurs at Southern Cross.	- Noted - The design process is ongoing but at this stage the 3D perspectives are what the school is envisaged to look like. Further, these are both issues that will be considered during the ongoing process. The final issues raised here concerning ibis will not be taken further as it is not a pressing issue. - Consultation is ongoing with the Project Reference Group who represent the school staff. - Noted. An opportunity will be provided to formally discuss the design through the DA process. - The small footprint of the building on the site allows for future growth to the north and east. - Two lifts are provided. Cleaning of upper level windows will be considered as part of the detailed design phase. - Louvre blades to shade the western façade facing Swift St are incorporated in the design. - This is an issue for the school to consider.
Transition	- How will Southern Cross deal with the extra students during construction? - Concerns around the new uniforms and the current uniforms and what will be used. The fear of students falling	- Additional temporary accommodation in the form of demountables will be provided for the extra students and staff. - The launch of the new school name and uniform occurred on

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	through the cracks. Parents moving their children to other schools. - The proper respects need to be paid to the current Ballina High School site such as an open house. - Concerns around the support for students who will be in year 12 and doing their HSE in 2019 (year of transition to redeveloped school). Concerns also around the transition period in 2017 and what that means for 2017's year 12 cohort and the general transition. - It looks as though we are combining the schools with "far less rooms". - Concerns around how the two schools will interact and also how students will deal with a high school enrolment twice the size as previous.	31 October 2016. Students will be able to wear their old uniforms as part of a transition phase (no change to the shorts or colour of the shorts). - Ballina High School is planning a number of activities over the weekend of 12-13 Nov to celebrate the achievements of the old school. - Noted - The temporary accommodation has been designed to cater for the combined population. - Students will already be interacting in 2017, when the Ballina High School students are temporarily re-located to the Southern Cross School while the new high school is being built.
Air conditioning	- Concern that if the new high school building is not air conditioned then it will be too hot during the summer period of the year. The area is humid and according to some community members there is no breeze. - A number of stakeholders raised their dissatisfaction that a new school would be built and not include air-conditioning. - According to community members some children need air conditioning due to a condition where they can't physically sweat. - Years of fundraising at Southern Cross has led to the air conditioning of two thirds of the school.	- Department of Education policy is not to air-condition their schools with the exception for specialist areas if required. Generally, in the past any air-conditioning has been paid for by P&C organisations. - Air-conditioning is to be provided to the support unit learning community and the learning centre/student hub. - The project team is aware of this particular condition and provisions have been made to accommodate these children
Parking	- General concern - Current basket balls courts on Martin Street could be converted. - Where will parents park for assemblies? - Local residents wont appreciated an increase in people parking in front of their properties. - According to one community member it is a legal criteria by the council to offer a certain amount of parking per square metre.	- These courts are being retained. - The traffic report has reviewed all available traffic data and concluded that there is sufficient on street parking around the school. - The footpath and road in front of said properties is public property.
Pedagogy	Teachers are not happy with new terminology which sees them being defined verbally as "coaches".	- Noted - The spaces are designed to be flexible encouraging all

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	Will all years interact with one another or will the areas be separated?	students to interact but will also allow classes to be taught independently of each other.
Shelter	- Outdoor shaded areas are desired - Shelter at drop off areas	- Covered outdoor areas are provided on the ground floor facing the inner courtyard, and on walkways on the upper levels. The gathering space also provides shelter, and will be accessible from the student and visitor entry points. - Shelter will be provided at the support unit drop off and school drop off areas.
Social Issues	- Us verse them mentality and local gangs. - Money saved should go towards assisting the homeless and bringing exuberant rents down. - Students and teachers are stressed. A community page on Facebook and "inaccurate information" broadcasted on ABC North Coast News and Radio has added to this according to a community member. - Some students can't associate with other students due to court orders between families. - Isolation of support learning students.	- Noted - Support learning students will be encouraged to integrate with the whole school, and can access the learning communities directly above via a lift or the stairs.
Culture	- Concerned about loss of identify of both schools - Southern Cross is stricter with their uniforms and have better HSC results according to one parent who justified why they sent their daughter to the school.	The schools new name, branding and uniforms have now been launched. The integration of both schools at Southern Cross for the next two years will allow for a better transition into the new facilities in 2019.
Sustainability		
Solar and water harvesting/tanks	- General request for insulation - Community pressure, including impending petitions lead to the possible inclusion of solar and water harvesting/tanks.	A proposed solar energy system and water tanks have been included in the design.
Branding		
School Name	Kingsford Smith suggested as a school name	On 31 October 2016 the new school's name was announced as Ballina Coast High School.
Greenspace		
Landscaping	Southern Cross campus is very green. This needs to be reflected at the new school.	- The landscaping plan is extensive and reflects the local surrounding area. - Noted

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	• Opportunities for students to contribute to gardening.	
Fig Trees	• Community members happy that fig trees are remaining.	• The fig trees are remaining.
Heritage	• Consideration is needed for memorabilia and historic notice boards and the historic Japanese exhibition. • Concerns around the demolition of historic buildings listed in Schedule 5 (heritage listings) of Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012.	• Display/preservation of these items will be considered as part of the detailed design phase. As discussed previously, a 10m² archive store room will be included in the administration section of the building. • Building M is proposed to be demolished (refer Statement of Heritage Impact) Building C is to be retained.
Locality	• Inner town locality and how that will effect traffic and local parking. • Southern Cross provides a high school close to residents in East Ballina. Children in this area will now have to find alternative methods and routes of transport to and from school (some walk and ride to school as they are so close).	• Refer to the traffic management plan.

Consultation with State and Local Government Agencies

Ballina Shire Council

Consultation with Ballina Shire Council has been undertaken throughout the project to date through direct discussion of project related issues and by involvement of a senior council officer as a member of the Project Reference Group. This relationship has developed further to the proposed joint venture for the construction of a new indoor sports centre on the school site which will be subject to a separate approval process. The joint venture will comprise two Council built sports courts with support facilities and cooperative use of proposed school facilities to provide a four court facility for use of the community and the school.

The project team also met with BSC on 11 August 2016 to discuss potential traffic impacts in relation to the Traffic Study. Council was provided with a draft of the Traffic Study prior to the meeting however, Council did not agree with the traffic generation rate in the report. Council acknowledge the area in front of the School (Cherry Street) is very busy during AM and PM school peak periods. Intersection modelling was discussed. It was explained to Council that the traffic volumes used by APP in the intersection modelling was very conservative. Council confirmed they would not support the applicant's proposal to provide no on-site parking and would like to see a formal pick-up and set-down area in Cherry Street. Council requested that the applicant consider undertaking a survey to determine site specific traffic generation and parking demand.

On 30 August 2016, the project team met with Council to outline the project proposal. Council indicated that generally they had no issues with the proposal, however a detailed response would be subject to a formal submission and assessment. The project team provided copies of recent traffic and parking studies of schools, undertaken on behalf of the RMS.

On 7 September 2016, the Project team met with Council to discuss traffic and parking. Council requested that a site specific traffic and parking study be undertaken. Options for a pick-up and set-down area were discussed and Council requested a proposal be submitted and supported by Paramics modelling. The project team explained to Council that we had reviewed the traffic generation rates based on the reports provided by RMS on 30 August.

Transport NSW

Transport NSW have provided requirements into the SEARS letter detailing the level of information that is required as part of the Development Application. The Project Manager has engaged in consultation by telephone with the nominated Transport NSW contact, Mr Para Sangar, to discuss the project and the likely impact on the road and public transport network. Transport NSW advised that they are satisfied that the submission required by the SEARS letter will suffice and that the project has engaged with the local Road and Maritime Services office to discuss the project impact on the local network.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

The GHD Project Manager engaged with RMS by phone to discuss the impacts of the project on the local infrastructure around the site. An on-site meeting was held with Mr Michael Baldwin (RMS) on Tuesday 30 August 2016 together with the appointed project Traffic Engineer to discuss the site. The project does not propose to make any changes to the road and public transport infrastructure at the site and intends to retain the existing bus interchange and public access points to the school. Existing service vehicle access points to the school will be repositioned to make less impact on the bus interchange and to provide disabled student drop off and delivery access to the site. Mr Baldwin had no concerns with what was proposed.

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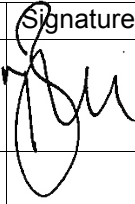
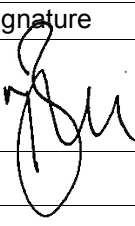
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Revision	Author	Reviewer		Approved for Issue		
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