

## Older Ipswich schools set for a modern future

State schools in Eastern Ipswich are set to be modernised to better meet students' educational needs well into the 21st Century.

Features under consideration include:

- Larger and more flexible classrooms, with new furniture, information and communication technology, and fittings;
- Up-to-date specialist facilities to teach subjects like science, performing arts and technology;
- Upgraded basic infrastructure such as power, water and communications;
- Enhanced school grounds with better

school entries, car parks and landscaping;

- Multi-use covered areas with a performance stage;
- Special facilities such as meeting rooms for parents, life skills areas, and inquiry learning centres for literature and technology.

Any improvements will have regard for the heritage values of many of the schools, some of which are among the oldest in the state.

These are some of the proposals now being considered by the Community Reference Group for the State Schools of

Tomorrow project for Eastern Ipswich.

The reference group's job is to identify the best way to allocate the \$75 million in available funds for the best educational outcomes.

Among other proposals under consideration are facilities to be shared by the schools including an inter-agency centre co-locating education, health and welfare services, a leadership development centre and an environment centre.

The reference group is also looking at closer tertiary education ties including a possible senior college (Years 10-12) co-located with the University of Queensland Ipswich.

### What's happened so far?

A feature of Tomorrow's Schools projects is that they involve extensive community consultation.

The Eastern Ipswich project was launched in August. Widespread community consultation has been undertaken since then to identify the best options for the area's state schools.

A Community Reference Group, comprising the Principals and P&C representatives from the seven schools, was set up to guide the process and identify recommendations to the Queensland Government.

Options and ideas identified by the community in the consultation have now been investigated and initial costings obtained.

### What happens from here?

The reference group's job now is to work out which options presented in this newsletter will be best for Eastern Ipswich's state schools, and can be achieved within the \$75 million budget.

This is likely to include looking at the benefits (or otherwise) of combining some schools.

If you fill in and return the feedback sheet attached to this newsletter, your views will be presented to the reference group during its discussions.

The reference group will finalise its recommendations at its final two meetings in November.

These will be presented to the Queensland Government for consideration.

### State Schools of Tomorrow

The Tomorrow's School package is a record \$1 billion investment over five years to modernise and build new school facilities across the state. It includes \$850 million for school renewals, targeting older schools in need of upgrades.

The initiative is also looking at how groups of nearby schools can work together to meet the needs of their local community.

Eastern Ipswich state schools are among the first in Queensland to benefit from this initiative.

### The Eastern Ipswich project

State Schools of Tomorrow for Eastern Ipswich involves seven local schools and could see up to \$75 million in new funds spent on local schools over the next few years.

The schools involved are:

**Primary schools:** Blackstone, Bundamba, Dinmore, Riverview and Silkstone.

**Secondary Schools:** Bremer State High School, Bundamba State Secondary College.



# Proposals in detail

## For each individual renewed school

### At a classroom level:

- Larger and more flexible classrooms with areas for individual and small group work;
- New information and communication technologies incorporated in classrooms;
- Teachers' preparation and storage areas;
- Indoor/outdoor linkages and suitable areas for arts, science and other activities;
- Up to date furniture and equipment.

### At a school facility level:

- Inviting school entries and street appeal;
- Improved parking and traffic safety;
- Improved and better located toilets;
- Modern administration and staff facilities;
- Environmentally sustainable initiatives such as water tanks;
- Landscaping and shade areas;
- A room for parent meetings.

### At a school infrastructure level:

- Improved drainage, electricity, water, telecommunications, and security.

## Highlight innovations for individual renewed schools

### A Learning for Life centre incorporating:

- A parent room to encourage parents to visit and become involved in the school;
- A life skills centre incorporating a kitchen, laundry etc. to teach students some basic living skills;
- Facilities for a school-run breakfast club for students.

### A multi-use covered area:

- Possibly co-located with the Learning for Life centre;
- Incorporating a stage and performance space;
- Capable of being enclosed and turned into a school hall at a later date (if desired).

### Inquiry learning centres

Inquiry learning centres for technology and literature have been proposed for all renewed primary schools. These could involve stimulating and highly creative spaces to extend motivated students.

### Working through the options

- The goal of the proposed individual renewed school upgrades is to bring existing schools as close as possible to the condition of new state schools in Queensland.
- The other proposals identify ideas raised during the consultation. The task now is to further investigate and cost these proposals, and then consider which options represent the best use of the available funds.

## Shared resources across the group of Eastern Ipswich schools

### Inter-agency centre

This could involve a co-location of student welfare, health and education services in a location that would make them more accessible to students and families as well as encourage greater inter-agency cooperation in the delivery of support services.

### Leadership development centre

This could target both student leadership and staff development and is based on a successful model at The Gap State High School. The concept involves facilities such as climbing walls and problem-solving exercises that facilitate team-building and leadership skills.

### Environmental community centre

This develops a proposal from the Blackstone school community for an ecological facility for primary, secondary and tertiary students and may involve a learning centre in an appropriate environmental education setting.

### Senior college co-located with University of Queensland Ipswich

Three options were proposed for closer relationships with the university – program and policy coordination, a small centre that facilitates closer links between high schools, their students and the university, and a new senior college for years 10-12. This could have an enrolment of 400 students.

## Other considerations

### Bremer State High School site

The meeting was told of a report just received regarding reactive clay soils on the Bremer site. The report indicated a new building was feasible on the south-west part of the school if the first two metres of soil were removed and replaced with non-reactive soils. The implications of the report and likely costs are being assessed.

### Principals' report

The meeting heard a report from the schools' principals in which they indicated strong support for building a connected education community between the group of schools with a long-term vision of providing a range of educational opportunities "from birth to graduation". They highlighted the importance of numeracy and literacy but also the schools' role in providing the necessary emotional and social support for students.

The principals also highlighted the importance of strengthening links with universities and TAFE to streamline student transitions.

# Proposals in detail

**From this?**

**To this?**



An architect's vision of how existing older school buildings could be transformed as part of the State Schools of Tomorrow project in Eastern Ipswich.

These are only concepts for discussion at this stage, and what is done at individual renewed schools will involve further extensive local consultation with school communities.

# Community consultation update

A Community Reference Group has been established to represent Eastern Ipswich schools. Each school is represented by its principal and a P&C representative. Others, such as Department of Education, Training and the Arts' officers and community representatives attend meetings as observers, and join discussions as required.

The consultation team has had a number

of meetings with individuals, groups, and organizations with an interest in State education in Eastern Ipswich, including meetings with students, staff and parents at the schools involved. There was also a public display at the Riverlink shopping centre and responses from the feedback sheet attached to the first newsletter. All these views have been consolidated in a consultation report that has been presented to the reference group.

The reference group has now identified its broad priorities for Eastern Ipswich schools and these have been summarised in this newsletter to encourage community feedback. Please take the time to fill out a feedback sheet and return it to one of the eight schools or the address provided.

It is expected the reference group will have two more meetings before agreeing on a series of recommendations that will be presented to the Queensland Government for consideration. This process should be completed by mid November.

## Further information

Information, including the project newsletters, is included on the State Schools of Tomorrow website [www.education.qld.gov.au/tomorrows-schools](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/tomorrows-schools)

Also check with your local school office or P&C.

The Tomorrow's School team can be contacted on 3237 0008, fax 3237 0839 or email

Email: [tomorrows-schools@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:tomorrows-schools@deta.qld.gov.au)



An example of a multi-use covered area which could be built at renewed schools.

## Where students live, and where they go to school

School Suburb	Blackstone State School	Bundamba State School	Dinmore State School	Riverview State School	Silkstone State School	Bremer State High School	Bundamba State Secondary College
Bundamba	21.0%	58.1%	11.6%	1.2%	7.3%	2.1%	24.9%
Riverview	0.6%	4.2%	38.4%	85.0%	1.0%	0.8%	12.7%
Silkstone	10.5%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%	23.3%	10.9%	2.8%
Raceview	5.6%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	10.3%	20.9%	3.1%
Flinders View	4.9%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	4.6%	11.4%	1.6%
Eastern Heights	3.1%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	8.0%	1.5%
Booval	4.9%	6.4%	2.2%	0.0%	8.5%	2.7%	2.9%
North Booval	1.9%	4.2%	0.7%	0.0%	3.5%	3.5%	4.3%
Dinmore	0.0%	3.6%	33.3%	2.4%	0.3%	0.3%	5.9%
East Ipswich	0.0%	1.9%	1.4%	0.0%	4.7%	3.0%	3.8%
Yamanto	3.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	5.7%	0.4%

This table shows the Eastern Ipswich group of state schools draw enrolments from a large number of suburbs, and that students do not necessarily attend their nearest school.

The table shows those suburbs which contribute the most enrolments to the group of schools. An even larger number of suburbs contribute smaller numbers of students to the schools.

# Feedback Sheet

This feedback sheet is designed to make it easier for you to provide thoughts and ideas to help guide the renewal of schools in the Eastern Ipswich group as part of the State Schools of Tomorrow initiative. All feedback will be logged on a database and assessed, and reported to the project's Community Reference Group.

All feedback will be regarded as confidential unless otherwise specified. The name and contact information is optional – it may allow us to contact you with further information if required.

Please feel free to add additional pages as required.

It would be appreciated if your response could reach us by Friday 9 November.

## 1. What are your overall thoughts about the package of proposals outlined in this newsletter?

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## 2. What are your views on the proposals for individual schools (ie for teaching areas, facilities, infrastructure, Learning for Life centres, inquiry learning centres for technology and literature, and multi-use covered areas)?

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## 3. What are your views on the proposals to be shared by the group of schools (ie an inter-agency centre for health, welfare and education services, a leadership development centre, environment community centre, or the senior college co-located with the University of Queensland Ipswich campus)?

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# Feedback Sheet (continued)

## 4. In prioritising these proposals (both individual and across schools) what would be, from your point of view,

a. the most important?

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b. the least important?

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## 5. Any other comments?

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### Please indicate the group/s you identify with:

Parent of school child?      yes  no

If **yes**, which school/s attended by your child/ren? If **no**, which school do you identify with?

Blackstone SS  Bundamba SS  Dinmore SS  Riverview SS  Silkstone SS

Bremer SHS  Bundamba State Secondary College

Another school not on the list

Indigenous community  Vietnamese community  Pan Pacific community

English speaking background

Business community  Teacher at a school above  Teacher in a different area

Eastern Ipswich community member

### The following is optional:

Name: .....

Address: .....

Contact telephone numbers:

(Day)

(AH)

Fax: .....

Email: .....

Please respond by Friday 9 November 2007 and return to your school office or post to C/ Education Queensland Moreton Region, Attention: John Green PMB No 2 Ipswich Q 4305 or Fax: 3247 4035