

State Schools of Tomorrow

Tomorrow's Schools – providing for a smarter future

Fact Sheet

Eastern Ipswich Project

21st Century Education and Learning School Facilities for Eastern Ipswich

The Queensland Government's \$850 million *State Schools of Tomorrow* initiative is driving the modernisation and redevelopment of state schools to transform them into 21st century teaching and learning environments.

Through this exciting community-driven State Government program, the Eastern Ipswich area will receive the biggest boost to education in its history.

Five schools in the Eastern Ipswich area are to be provided with contemporary education and learning facilities through a \$134.1 million *State Schools of Tomorrow* project.

Bremer State High School will be relocated and rebuilt at a new site with close links to the University of Queensland Ipswich campus. A number of potential sites are currently being investigated.

Bundamba, Riverview, and Silkstone state schools and Bundamba State Secondary College will be upgraded to give students better educational opportunities.

The renewal of Bundamba, Riverview, and Silkstone state schools and the Bundamba State Secondary College will provide students with high-quality facilities to better meet 21st century learning needs – including more spacious and more flexible classrooms, modern communications technology, and practical learning areas.

Each primary school will feature a 'Learning for Life' Centre to foster life skills.

Each school will also have access to a cluster leadership development centre and a facility that will amalgamate welfare services for students.

It is planned that the three renewed primary schools will have capacity from 2010 to accommodate students from the nearby Blackstone and Dinmore state schools which will close at the end of the 2009 school year.

The relocated Bremer State High School will have all new buildings constructed to the latest educational standards to enhance student learning. General and specialist classrooms will be large, fully equipped with the most modern equipment and have information technology embedded.

The school renewals have been designed to allow the schools to become genuine community resources, with the renewed schools able to support new adult learning opportunities outside of school hours or as venues for school and community programs and events.

Why are some schools closing?

Both Blackstone and Dinmore state schools are located on small sites — about half the typical size of a new primary school, have low enrolment numbers which are not projected to increase to a significant degree and are very close to other local primary schools which are considered to be more sustainable.

When will the schools close?

Both Blackstone and Dinmore state schools will close at the end of 2009. Education Queensland will now begin planning to make the movement of young people to their new schools as smooth as possible.

What key factors determined school sustainability and closures?

Factors taken into account in deciding whether schools would close include:

- The size of the school's enrolment as this can limit the diversity of curriculum and opportunities for students;
- The school's enrolments are low or have declined and there is only limited growth expected in the future;
- There are other, more sustainable state schools nearby; and importantly
- The Community Reference Group, established as the central consultation group identified the school as one of the least sustainable in the cluster.

What will happen to the funds from the sale of the schools?

Anticipated returns from the sale of Blackstone and Dinmore state school sites have been included in the project budget.

Will there be any job loss as a result of this initiative?

No. Officers of the Department will work with all affected school staff and unions to ensure an open and transparent transition process is developed and implemented resulting in all staff being placed in jobs.

Will unions be consulted about this initiative and the transition process?

Yes. Officers of the Department have already held numerous discussions with the QTU; LHMU; & QPSU regarding this initiative. Assurances have been given to unions that further consultation will occur during the development of the transition process for school staff, and will continue during all phases of implementation.

What if I'm not a union member? Will I be consulted?

Yes. All affected school staff will be consulted during the development of the transition process and throughout the implementation of this initiative.

What if I'm not happy with the outcome?

Officers of the Department will be available to discuss your concerns and work with you to achieve a resolution suitable to both you and the Department.

When will the renewal of schools in the Eastern Ipswich area take place?

The renewal of the schools is planned to be completed for the start the 2010 school year.

What role will schools now have in planning the renewal?

Planning for the renewal of the schools will involve the development of a master plan and site-specific detailed plans. This will require considerable consultation at each school site involving school representatives, a parents and citizens' association representative, Education Queensland staff and contractors.

How will the construction work affect my child's learning?

Student learning will continue to be the key priority for schools. While construction work will inevitably cause inconvenience at times, Education Queensland staff are very experienced at handling the construction issues alongside school operations. Detailed planning will be undertaken at each site to stage construction work and provide suitable accommodation for students and staff at all stages of the construction to reduce its impact.

Parents and carers will receive regular updates from their school to keep them well informed.

What will the school renewal mean for the individual schools?

Schools being renewed will gain high-quality facilities to better meet 21st Century learning needs. These will include upgraded infrastructure, improved administration and student service areas, more spacious and more flexible classrooms and modern information and communications technology.

Other provisions will include:

Bundamba, Riverview, and Silkstone state schools

- Improved practical learning areas
- Improved undercover play and assembly areas which will have provisions for student performances
- 'Learning for life centres' to develop life skills through facilities such as a kitchen and laundry. The Centres will be used for both teaching and activities such as breakfast clubs.
- Access to a cluster facility that will amalgamate welfare services for students

Bundamba State Secondary College

- Renewed industrial technology and design facilities to enhance vocational education and training opportunities for students.
- Upgraded specialist facilities.
- Leadership Centre.

Bremer State High School

- New spacious and flexible classrooms and modern well appointed learning facilities with the latest technology
- New administration, student services and teacher areas
- New specialist teaching facilities
- Performing Arts Centre
- Student Centre
- Sports oval and landscaped grounds

Will the renewed facilities be available for community use?

An important feature of the renewal program is that renewed schools will be able to support new adult learning opportunities outside of school hours and/or become venues for school and community programs and events or co-located services.

What will happen where community organisations currently use school facilities at either Blackstone or Dinmore state schools?

The existing community-use agreement for Blackstone and Dinmore state schools should be able to be continued up to the anticipated closing date. It may be possible for those community groups to negotiate alternative arrangements with one of the nearby schools identified for renewal.

What school will my child attend once Blackstone State School and Dinmore State School closes?

Parents with children at Blackstone State School and Dinmore State School will be able to send their child to any school in the Eastern Ipswich area from 2010.

Please contact your Principal if you have any concerns.

A survey of parents will occur in late 2008 and again in 2009 to confirm student movements.

What sort of support is there for parents?

- **School uniforms**
Financial assistance of \$285 will be available to parents of students who have to change primary schools to purchase uniforms for their new school.
- **Transport**
Students who live more than 3.2 km from the nearest state primary school, or, 4.8 km from the nearest state high school may be eligible for financial support through the Department of Transport's School Transport Assistance Scheme.

Further information on financial assistance can be obtained from -

http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/Home/Assistance_and_services/Grants_and_subsidies/School_transport_assistance_scheme_stas/

How will the history of Blackstone and Dinmore schools be preserved?

The history of each school is very important. The Department encourages schools to document their history. This material could be part of a commemorative publication or be included on the website of the main schools to which Blackstone and Dinmore students move. Financial assistance may be available to the school to help with this process. Significant memorabilia will also be relocated to receiver schools or other appropriate locations.

Will Blackstone and Dinmore state schools facilities continue to be maintained prior to closure?

Education Queensland will continue to fund the appropriate maintenance of Blackstone and Dinmore state schools to ensure the safety and welfare of students, staff and visitors.

How will my child benefit from going to a different school?

State Schools of Tomorrow sets a new benchmark in innovative school design and planning. It focuses on modernising schools and equipping them with exceptional facilities, resources and technologies that support a broad range of new or increased educational opportunities which may not have been available at your child's previous school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The State Schools of Tomorrow team can be contacted on:

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Examples of possible high-quality State Schools of Tomorrow renewal initiatives

State Schools of Tomorrow aims to bring older schools up to new school standards. This initiative will create classrooms that reflect the latest thinking in curriculum delivery, exceptional Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and a variety of multi-purpose facilities that may be shared with local communities.

Performing/visual arts centre



North Lakes State College



Multi-purpose auditorium



Upper Coomera State College



Calamvale Community College

Multi-media and technology hub - ICT resources & infrastructure



North Lakes State College



Humpybong State School

Creation/upgrade of outdoor spaces



Brisbane State High School



Architectural image: State Schools of Tomorrow

Enlarged classrooms and specialised learning areas



North Lakes State College



Bentley Park College

New or refurbished school entrance & administration facilities



Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology



Varsity College

Joint school-community use facilities – library- and upgraded meeting rooms



North Lakes State College



North Lakes State College