



WESS Building our Future

December 2019



Happy Holidays!

What a year it's been, culminating in the recent sod turning event on the expansion site. Together, with our students, the Deputy Premier, and the Education Minister, we officially marked the start of the expansion building works. So, while the school year is winding down, the building expansion works is ramping up!



Official sod turning

The expansion will enable WESS to accommodate up to 1,725 students by 2022. The winning tenderer for Stage 1 is Hutchinson Builders (Hutchies) and they will be busy on site over the Christmas holidays. They will turn our school community's vision into a WESS expansion! Over the holidays, Hutchies will demolish the Queensland Police building and lay the groundwork for the new buildings for Stage 1. In late January, the building slab will be poured, and we'll get to see the footprint of the three-storey early years' classroom block, which is all part of Stage 1. I am very excited that Cox Architecture has been retained for Stage 1 as this will give us continuity in design. See below for a graphic capturing the community consultation processes used to help shape the expansion.

I'm looking forward to the outdoor and flexible spaces planned as part of the building, as it will empower the students to achieve their personal best! We have been working hard and researching to ensure we make the most of these spaces and enhance student learning.

WESS expansion is an extension of our school with the "campus heart" of WESS located where Horan St was. It is the same school, just bigger; and our students will wear the same uniforms and be taught by the same teachers. It is all still WESS!!

Next year will see us reach around 1,200 students and we have meticulously planned their placement in classrooms. We have had to resurrect some double teaching spaces, which we used for individual classes this year. We have worked hard to facilitate teaching teams in these spaces who have a passion for cooperative teaching.

Early 2020, we'll also launch our new four-year strategic plan. While the WESS expansion master plan has shaped our physical presence, our strategic plan will shape our community and learning culture. We have used the WESS vision and values, developed with our school community, as the foundation for the strategic plan. We have embedded feedback received from you all over the past year through surveys, discussions, and consultations including the master planning consultation and input from the School Council. We have also included the feedback received from the recent School Review as well as the latest educational research. The strategic plan is really shaping up to be something we can be proud of and I am excited to share it with you all in the new year.

I wish you all a joyous break; see you Tuesday 28 January for the new school year.

Kim McNamara, WESS Principal



Looking to 2020

- 49 classes
- 1,200 students
- Early Dec piling works on site
- Dec / Jan Qld Police building demolished
- Dec / Jan Vulture Street footpath trenching works
- Dec / Jan new retaining wall built on site
- Dec / Jan services established for the new buildings
- Late Jan slab poured
- 2020 building tender for Stage 2 to be awarded
- Term 4, 2020 Preps and Year 1s move into the new Stage 1, 3-storey learning centre



"When your school is your castle."

Prep Koalas student, Murat, drawing what he thinks the WESS expansion will look like.

Department of Education

WESS expansion journey



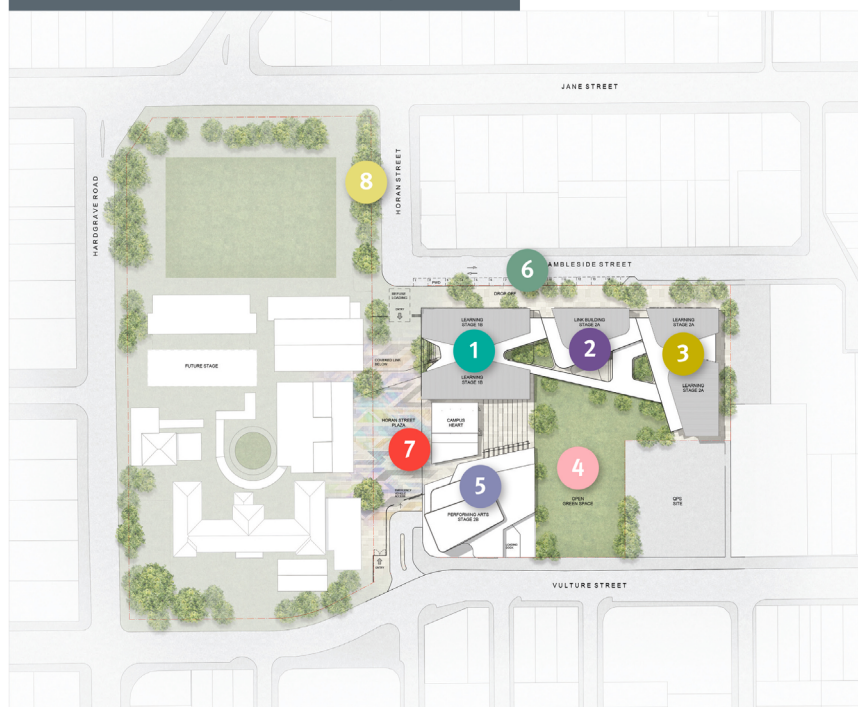
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 **Queensland
Government**

The school and community have been on the expansion journey since the concept design development phase of the project.

If you have any questions regarding the construction, please email the project team at BuildingFutureSchools@qed.qld.gov.au

West End State School expansion



- 1 3-storey, 16-space learning centre**
Prep and Year 1
Completed for late 2020
- 2 2-storey learning centre**
Administration and library
Completed for Term 1, 2022
- 3 4-storey learning centre**
Years 5 and 6
Completed for Term 1, 2022
- 4 Green space**
(including undercroft play space)
Rolling completion—end 2021 to mid-2022
- 5 Creative learning centre and parking**
Music, auditorium and canteen
47 car park capacity
Completed for mid-2022
- 6 Pick up/drop off zone**
14 drop off spaces
Completed for Term 4, 2020
- 7 Campus Heart**
Completed for mid-2022
- 8 Temporary drop off zone**
Until Term 4, 2020



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View of campus heart and creative learning centre [Artist impression (not final) of expansion]

From student to teacher... Mary Skarparis talks all things WESS

Our Greek language and library teacher, Mary Skarparis, has been at WESS for 40 years—first as a student and then as a teacher.

"The one thing that I can honestly say has not changed is the huge diversity of cultures in our school and the acceptance that comes with such diversity. Having grown up in West End, I loved the sense of community—yes it has changed constantly over the decades, but the community is still at the heart of West End.



Mary Skarparis, front row, second from left, in Grade 1-A, West End State School



I have seen so many changes throughout my career at WESS, but none so great as this current expansion of our campus. I didn't think it could get much better than when we first managed to build the pool, the new wings, the hall and the new library block, but to see our numbers grow so dramatically, yet manage the growth so seamlessly, well, this is exciting. I am also constantly in awe of the students and their achievements. What a journey we are all taking!

With this new expansion, I think WESS will come of age. By that, I mean it will be a true state-of-the-art education facility, offering the best in curriculum delivery, connectedness, community and preparing our next generation and generations to come with opportunities to rise and shine, no matter what."

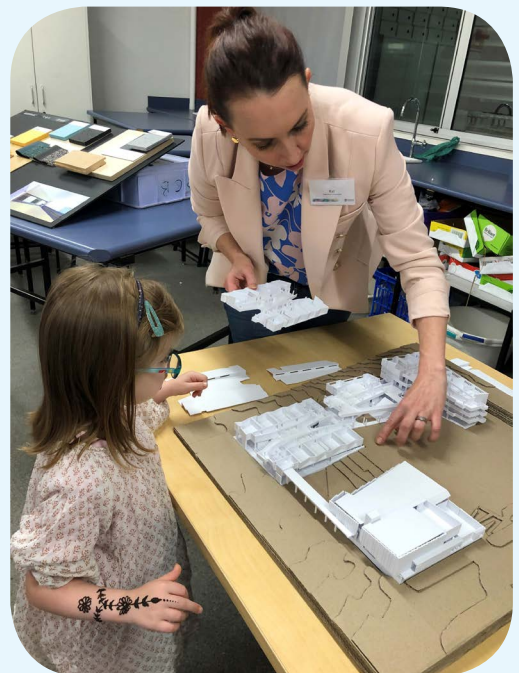


Mary Skarparis, prefect, front row, 4th from left, in Grade 7-B, West End State School

Community briefing at WEcreate

Our WESS community were treated to a virtual journey of the WESS expansion at October's WEcreate.

Representatives from the Department of Education and Cox Architecture treated us to plans, virtual reality goggles and 3D models, which helped everyone to see what our expansion will look like!

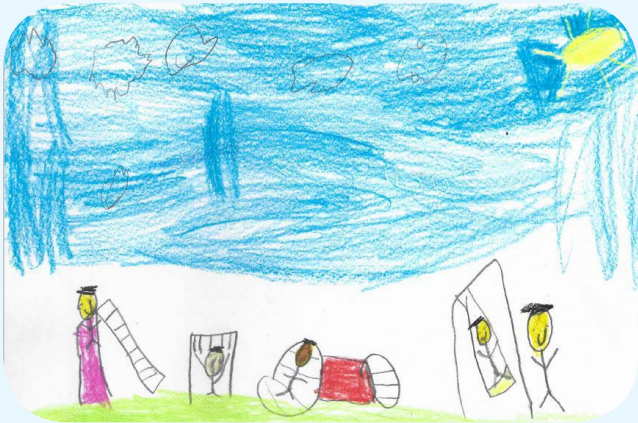


View of the new administration entry
[Artist impression (not final) of expansion]

Student Impressions



Prep Koala and Possums students draw what they imagine their new play space will be when they move to their new classrooms in Term 4, 2020.



By Prep Koalas student, Cayden.



By Prep Koalas student, Coco.



By Prep Koalas student, Louisa.



By Prep Possums student, Charlise.

Meet the builder—Ian Partridge, Contractor Site Manager, Hutchison Builders.

“West End is full of character and Brisbane charm—it’s a fun place to be. Hutchies has a long history in West End. We have worked on lots of the local landmarks for many decades. In the 1940s Hutchies built an expansion for what was originally the Thomas Dixon shoe factory on Montague Road and now, almost 80 years later, we are back on site doing early works for Queensland Ballet’s new home, which will be known as the Thomas Dixon Centre. Hutchies has worked with the Department of Education for more than a century after building the original Bulimba State School back in 1914.

The original WESS building was built almost 150 years ago and is a local heritage landmark. Old establishments like this are full of great memories for people and they are an important part of our city. It is exciting to be a part of building this historic school’s future learning facilities that will teach generations.

I’m keen to see the brick detailing on the face of the Stage 1 building—it will be a real head turner when it’s finished. The overall selection of materials and colours will fit in very nicely to West End’s heritage and character. The landscaped outdoor areas are really welcoming and practical.

The classrooms and teaching spaces will be open, modern and collaborative—they connect and interact with each other well.”



View of Horan Street and the new Prep and Year 1 learning centre [Artist impression (not final) of expansion]



Prep Koalas students Norah (left) and Louisa (right) play while Year 3 student, Amelia keeps score.

Stage 1 of the expansion —Prep & Year 1 rooms ready for Term 4, 2020

Stage 1 will deliver a three-storey learning centre including:

- 16 general learning areas
- Outdoor landscaped areas
- A new pick-up and drop-off zone.

Prep students on what excites them about the expansion

Louisa: "I'm excited if there's computers because I like the computers here."

Liam: "I'm excited about a new playground because I can't wait to play on it, it might have a trainset and I'm really excited about that."

Ethan: "I am excited about the fun stuff and because it will have a game board for us to play games."

Leonardo: "I'm most excited about a new playground because it might be made of my favourite stuff."

Norah: "I'm excited that the walls in the classrooms might be pink; this is my favourite colour."



By Prep Possums student, Matilda



By Prep Koalas student, Norah.



By Prep Possums student, Poppy.

Lisa Wallace, Prep teacher and science learning community leader

"What excites me most about the expansion is knowing the tremendous amount of research, thought, time, and effort that has gone into providing us with state-of-the-art facilities. That Stage 1 is being purpose built for the early years, allows us to educate the students of WESS age appropriately and empowers them to achieve their personal best.

I am looking forward to a classroom that is aesthetically and acoustically designed, modern, spacious with lots of ingenious storage and flexible furniture. I am looking forward to the indoor, outdoor areas that support more innovative, collaborative teaching and learning, skills necessary for our children in the 21st Century; the undercroft where children can explore and play every day, rain or shine; to the space that allows us to come together as a cohort of teachers to collaborate and interact on a daily basis."



Introducing new teacher, Abbey Hoskins

"I am really looking forward to moving to West End State School. It will be a big change from my current small country school in Western Queensland! WESS has a great reputation and high performing students. The expansion sounds exciting, with the new classrooms and modern facilities. I think it is an important step to ensure the school is accommodating the growing school population.

At my current school, I have been working closely with the leadership team to ensure staff and student well-being. I believe well-being in schools is a fundamental pre-requisite for healthy, constructive and productive quality teaching and learning. Both students and teaching staff need to be supported and in a good state of mind to be inspired and inspiring. This is certainly an area of interest for me and I would love to continue this at WESS in 2020."

Abbey is transferring from Surat State School and will teach Year 1.



STOP PRESS

OSHC expansion delay

WESS P&C decided to delay the planned expansion works that were scheduled over the Christmas break. These will now occur during the Easter school holiday period. A new tender will be called in January with the building contract awarded early in the new year.

"The Christmas premium builders were charging meant that we weren't going to get the best value for our fundraising dollars. We also found the tight deadlines were a problem. Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) will start the year with 190 places for families needing help bridging the gap between school hours and working hours.

We are pleased to be able to offer this service and continue to support WESS families.

We hope that WESS families will also support us in the new year and get involved in the P&C." **Gina McIntyre, WESS P&C President.**



Diary Date

**First P&C meeting for 2020: Tuesday
11 February at 7.15pm.**

If you have any questions regarding the construction, please email the project team at BuildingFutureSchools@qed.qld.gov.au