

# Freshwater State School – Multi-purpose Hall Consultative Group

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

Generic image by the Department of Education — does not represent the school or the project

### About the consultative group

The Department of Education is planning to deliver a new multi-purpose hall for Freshwater State School. The department is committed to providing this new facility for the school and, in consultation with the school community, will revisit location and design options.

The establishment of the Freshwater State School New Multi-purpose Hall Internal Consultative Group (the consultative group), which involves volunteer parents and carers, Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C) members and current school staff, will assist the school community to work closely with the department's infrastructure team, actively contributing in face-to-face sessions to explore the location and design options for the hall.

### This update reflects a Freshwater State School consultative group meeting held on Wednesday, 23 April 2025

The first meeting focused on establishing a shared understanding of the project scope, activating the consultative group with the Terms of Reference (ToR), reviewing the project framework, presenting survey results that confirmed the group's priorities, providing a high-level overview of the school's master plan, highlighting opportunities and constraints associated with the new hall and outlining upcoming meeting content.

The following table summarises information shared and discussions during the meeting and next steps:

#### Topic: Overview of the process — (1) Criteria development and analysis and (2) governance structure and approval process for the new hall.

Summary of information provided	Consultative group's initial feedback	Information response/next steps
<p>The overarching approach to the planning and delivery of the hall that includes, analysis of the context, place, culture, curriculum and pedagogical approach.</p> <p>Governance of the consultative group is outlined in the ToR as is the approval process for the hall design and construction.</p> <p>The consultative group is a volunteer forum enabling consultation between the department and the Freshwater State School community – it is not a decision-making body.</p>	<p>Accepted overarching approach to the planning and delivery of the hall as outlined, with the group's participation in providing feedback through the meetings relating to analysis of the context, place, culture, curriculum and pedagogical approach.</p> <p>Overarching awareness of and acceptance of the ToR (governance and the approval process for the hall design and construction).</p>	<p>Consultative group will be provided with more detailed information at the second meeting and collaborate to finalise evaluation criteria and weightings, ensuring a transparent and agreed-upon method for the group to contribute to evaluating site options and functional areas.</p>

#### Topic: Hall development and construction scope (continues over next page)

Summary of information provided	Consultative group's initial feedback	Information response/next steps
<p><i>Eligibility and minimum requirements</i></p> <p>– Guiding the planning, design and construction of education facilities.</p>	<p>Accepted that every project the department builds is unique, and the planned Freshwater State School hall</p>	<p>Review and assess potential site locations for the new multi-purpose hall considering the physical layout</p>

## Topic: Hall development and construction scope (continued)

Summary of information provided	Consultative group's initial feedback	Information response/next steps
<p>Requirements include the need to operate a safe and functioning school and consider student numbers/capacity, size of space required, number of learning spaces, amenities, parking, cost, impact on school operations and surrounding community.</p> <p><i>Curriculum benefits</i> – How the hall will facilitate learning and learner-centred outcomes. An integrated purposeful and multi-purpose learning setting and spaces that support and enhance a full range of learning and teaching activities.</p>	<p>is no different. Group raised what other local school halls look like and how they function as part of the school and community.</p> <p>Concerns about adequate car parking and Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) capacity.</p> <p>Included discussions about positively responding to enrolment growth and consideration of environmental impacts of the hall build on the school's physical environment.</p> <p>Questions about the possibility of including solar panels in the construction scope.</p> <p>Questions about the inclusion of air conditioning in the scope.</p>	<p>and relationship to existing school infrastructure.</p> <p>Consideration of constraints, opportunities, and alignment to school and educational needs.</p> <p>Department to investigate the possibility of solar panels being included in the build, parking – on and off-site possibilities, and potential opportunities concerning OSHC accommodation.</p> <p>The department does not typically air condition halls as they are large open spaces. Large fans will be installed to manage airflow, and the building located to optimise ventilation. If air conditioning is considered, installation would be funded by the school, important to factor in long-term maintenance (responsibility of school), mould prevention, and the durability of materials. The department will explore opportunities for passive ventilation as part of the design process.</p>

## Topic: Consultative group member survey outcomes

Summary of information provided	Consultative group's initial feedback	Information response/next steps
<p>Outcomes and themes of the member survey – collation of member's initial thoughts on aspects of the planned infrastructure – used to help guide early conversations.</p> <p>Overwhelmingly, across all questions the respondents identified the necessity for the hall to meet the educational needs of students as the most important requirement of the infrastructure.</p> <p>Consistently across all four questions was the desire to retain existing trees and green space for outdoor play, the need for a suitable design for the climate, modern and fit to hold a variety of sporting and performing arts events.</p> <p>The feedback is consistent with initial concerns the school community and P&amp;C presented to the department in late 2024.</p>	<p>Consultative group agreed with the priorities as identified by the hall project survey responses.</p> <p>Discussion focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The whole school site be considered in planning, effectively using all available space and resources.</li> <li>• Finding the right balance between designing a fit-for-purpose space and working within the site's constraints.</li> <li>• Where possible, prioritising green space over additional car parking.</li> <li>• Maximising available green and play spaces while locating the hall for the climate and site.</li> <li>• Including an OSHC space in the scope.</li> </ul>	<p>Top three confirmed priorities to be acknowledged and retained when the consultative group participates in the options assessment.</p> <p>Master Plan 2032 to overlay the site and be given due consideration in planning.</p> <p>Survey results will be shared with the community as part of the community update document (<i>Attachment 1_ Consultative Group survey results</i>).</p> <p>Potential opportunities concerning OSHC accommodation to be investigated by the department.</p>

## Topic: Master Plan context — Site considerations

Summary of information provided	Consultative group's initial feedback	Information response/next steps
Overview of the Freshwater State School Master Plan 2032 and the exploration of the opportunities and constraints of the school site.	<p>Some consultative group members acknowledged awareness of the Master Plan 2032, while others were not aware of it.</p> <p>Included discussion about indoor and outdoor play spaces.</p> <p>Consultative group members appreciated the background.</p>	<p>The department began planning in 2022 using data drawn from census records to understand school size, projected enrolment growth, and demographic shifts in the area, with data supporting a compelling case to invest in the school infrastructure.</p> <p>As part of the master plan, consultation was undertaken with school leaders, staff, and parents to identify both essential needs and 'nice to have' features. These inputs informed the school's Master Plan 2032.</p> <p>The master plan outlines a roadmap of projects expected to roll out over the next 10 years including the multi-use hall.</p> <p>With the Master Plan 2032 overlay, the consultative group's consideration of the multi-purpose hall's location will take place at Meeting 2.</p>



For more information about the department's plans to deliver a new multi-purpose hall for Freshwater State School, visit the Building Education website.



Members of the Freshwater State School New Multi-purpose Hall Internal Consultative Group will be actively seeking feedback from the community.



Questions about the department's plans to deliver a new multi-purpose hall for Freshwater State School can be directed to [BuildingFutureSchools@qed.qld.gov.au](mailto:BuildingFutureSchools@qed.qld.gov.au).