

# Freshwater State School New Multi-purpose Hall

## Internal Consultative Group survey results

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## About the project

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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, is revisiting location and design options.

While revisiting location and design options will delay construction of the new hall for at least 12 months, the original budget allocated for the project has been secured.

### The Freshwater State School New Multi-purpose Hall Internal Consultative Group

The department has committed to further engagement with the Freshwater State School community to seek feedback as it continues to plan for the delivery of the new multi-purpose hall.

Parents and carers, Parents and Citizens' Association (P&C) members and current school staff were invited to nominate as volunteer members of the Freshwater State School New Multi-purpose Hall Internal Consultative Group (the consultative group).

The consultative group members were confirmed in February 2025 and will work closely with the department's infrastructure team, actively contributing to a series of face-to-face sessions to be held throughout the first school semester in 2025.

## The conversation — survey purpose

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A survey was distributed to the members of the consultative group on 27 February 2025 and closed on 18 March 2025.

The purpose of the survey was to collect the opinions and priorities of group members to inform conversations about the future design and location of the proposed new multi-purpose hall.

The survey asked the consultative group a series of four questions to identify the culture of the Freshwater State School and the members' views of the project.

The results from the survey will be used to guide discussions and will aid in future departmental decision-making.

## Summary of themes

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Overwhelmingly, across all questions the respondents identified the necessity for the new hall to meet the educational needs of the students as the most important requirement of the infrastructure.

Consistently across all four questions was the desire to retain existing trees and green space for outdoor play, the need for the design to be suitable for Cairns' climate, modern and fit to hold a variety of sporting and performing arts events.

The feedback is consistent with initial concerns the school community and P&C presented to the department in late 2024.

## Key responses

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### Question 1

#### Please describe your perception of the character or culture of Freshwater State School

This question required a free text response. Some members of the consultative group sought input from their communities. These have been considered and included along with the responses of the members of the consultative group.

Recurring themes:

- Caring and genuine teachers
- Strong sense of community and involved parents and community members
- Supportive and engaging learning environment
- Lush, green and leafy landscape
- Wide open spaces
- Connection to the outdoors
- Opportunities for students to reach their full potential
- School reputation in the community – a mix of responses reflected positive and negative reputation perceptions
- Challenges with communication.

### Question 2

#### What two things are important to you regarding the planned hall?

Top three responses:

- That the hall addresses the educational needs of students
- Green space / outdoor play space is preserved
- The hall delivers modern facilities for the school.

### Question 3

#### What two things matter the most to you about the department building a new hall?

Top three responses:

- The hall won't be designed for the area's climate
- That the educational needs of students are met
- Trees will be removed, and on-site car parking will be a problem (an equal amount of responses were received for these topics).

### Question 4

#### What are two outcomes you believe will come from the delivery of the new school hall?

Top three responses:

- The hall meets educational, sporting and social needs of students
- School performances and events will be able to be hosted indoors
- Sporting events will be able to be held indoors.

## Key themes to guide consultative group discussions



The educational needs of the students must be met



Retaining trees and green space



Design must suit the Cairns climate



The multi-purpose hall has modern, fit for purpose facilities

## Next steps

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The results and themes collated from the consultative group member survey establish a baseline of important considerations for the development of the new hall.

The results have been shared with the consultative group and will help guide discussions as the consultative group works closely with the department's infrastructure team to revisit location and design options for the new multi-purpose hall for Freshwater State School.

The findings of the survey will also be supplied to the internal project team and departmental executives to assist in shaping future decision-making about the planned infrastructure.