

AUGUST 2024

Proposed new senior campus
for Springfield Central State High School

Community engagement report

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Background

Springfield Central State High School (SHS) is a co-educational state high school located at 90 Parkland Drive, Springfield Central, Queensland 4300.

Springfield Central SHS opened in January 2011, welcoming students in Years 8 and 9, and now enrolls students from Year 7 to Year 12.

New campus proposal

In November 2023, the Government approved a revised opening date for the proposed new Springfield Central SHS secondary campus, initially planned to open in 2024, for the 2029 or 2030 school year.

Stabilising enrolment growth within the state school network, including at Springfield Central SHS, afforded the Department of Education (the Department) additional time to consider options to provide long-term capacity.

Planning for new facilities within the existing campus of Springfield Central SHS is underway to meet any enrolment demand in the short term. Springfield Central SHS is expected to reach capacity by 2028.

In late 2022 and early 2023, the Department progressed investigations to identify alternative options to provide significant additional capacity in the Springfield secondary schooling network, as well as the interim infrastructure required until the new school is delivered.

The Springfield Options Analysis (Options Analysis) resumed in February 2024, with all options re-considered through a robust internal stakeholder engagement process, that further investigated the operational viability of the suggested options.

Four proposed solutions were considered viable options:

- a. New Senior Campus as part of Springfield Central SHS.
- b. New Junior Campus as part of Springfield Central SHS.
- c. New separate school with equidistant catchment arrangement with Springfield Central SHS.
- d. New separate school with negotiated catchment arrangement with Springfield Central SHS.

A new senior secondary campus, as an extension of Springfield Central SHS, was substantiated as the preferred option.

The proposed new senior secondary campus' location is Sinnathamby Boulevard, within Springfield's Knowledge Precinct, adjacent to the Springfield TAFE campus and the University of Southern Queensland, and within walking distance to the current Springfield Central SHS site. The proposed location has opportunities for higher learning pathways with adjacent tertiary institutions.

The proposed revised school delivery year is between 2029 and 2030, with the opening year to be linked to student enrolment growth. It is subject to approval of a new Detailed Business Case (DBC), to be completed in 2025.

This project aligns with the Department's Strategic Plan 2023–27 where the delivery of the proposed senior secondary campus aims to support successful transitions throughout a student's education journey, including into further education or employment pathways.

Delay since original announcement

The new senior campus was initially planned to open in 2024, however, stabilising enrolments in the Springfield area meant the project was not required as early as initially planned.

The rate of enrolment growth at Springfield Central SHS slowed substantially from 2021 and enrolments declined in 2023. This was the first time enrolments did not grow from the previous year since the school opened in 2011.

The local population is still expected to grow and drive the need for a senior campus project, but the slower growth over the last few years has reduced the urgency.

Short-term infrastructure

To support continued enhancements at Springfield Central SHS, funding has been allocated toward the planning and delivery of building upgrades and refurbishments, as required.

Planning for new facilities within the existing campus of Springfield Central SHS is underway to meet any short-term enrolment demand.



The conversation

Community consultation

The Department engaged with the community over a two-week period, from Monday, 8 July 2024 to Sunday, 21 July 2024.

The entire Springfield Central SHS catchment area was invited to 'have its say' on the proposed new senior campus.

Community consultation included:

- an online survey for community members
- an online survey for school principals in the surrounding area
- two Springfield Central SHS Facebook posts
- a Springfield Central SHS newsletter article
- a community information flyer distributed to the Springfield Central SHS catchment that invited feedback via email, an online survey and a face-to-face information session
- a letter to local elected representatives to advise of consultation and to invite feedback
- a two-hour face-to-face information session held at Springfield Central SHS to present the vision for the new senior campus and seek feedback from an operational perspective:
 - 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Wednesday 17 July 2024 at Springfield Central SHS community hall.

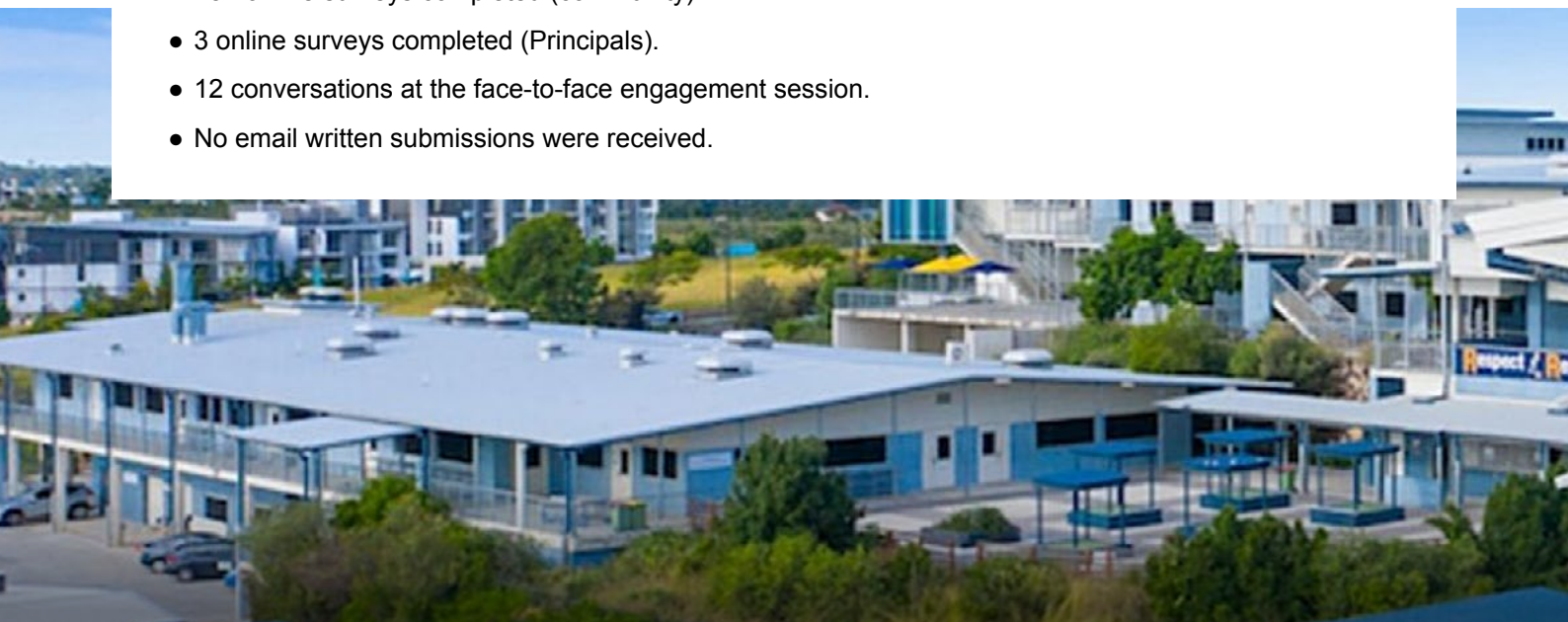
Who provided feedback

The majority of community engagement feedback received from the online survey and face-to-face engagement session came from community members with a direct association with Springfield Central SHS and community members.

How people engaged

169 pieces of feedback were received:

- 154 online surveys completed (community).
- 3 online surveys completed (Principals).
- 12 conversations at the face-to-face engagement session.
- No email written submissions were received.



What we heard

The majority of the feedback received supported or welcomed the proposed new senior secondary campus for Springfield Central SHS.

The growth and need for additional learning environments and facilities is of considerable importance to the existing and future Springfield Central community.

The volume of feedback received throughout the two-week consultation points to the strong community interest in the existing built environment and prospect of continued positive educational outcomes for students of the Springfield Central community. The Department acknowledges this, while noting its guiding principle of providing safe, fit-for-purpose facilities to support the delivery of quality education for students.

Priority – ready for the future

The majority of those who participated in the community engagement believed supporting students' positive transitions from school into further education and/or employment is the highest priority, in order for students to be 'ready for the future'.

Key characteristics the new senior campus should include

Feedback revealed a desire that the new campus include a contemporary learning space focused on future learning, training and innovation, as well as offering a hub of spaces that facilitate student and staff wellbeing, inviting a variety of activities, interest ranges and catering for differing group sizes.

Specialised learning pathways to better prepare high school students for the future

Within the Springfield secondary school network and neighbouring high schools, participants agreed that specialised learning pathways could better prepare high school students for the future. Community input suggested to better prepare students, partnerships with universities, and offering programs of excellence to students, could provide additional learning opportunities and outcomes.

Specialised learning curriculum

School principals from surrounding schools agreed the new senior campus should offer specialised learning curriculum to all local schools to ensure students within the area have access to the same opportunities.

School features and sufficient land will enhance the learning environment

Feedback highlighted that school features should have a balance of classrooms and specialised spaces (such as a trade learning centre, industry-standard hospitality spaces, performing arts), as well as adequate greenspace to enhance the learning and recreational environments for senior students.

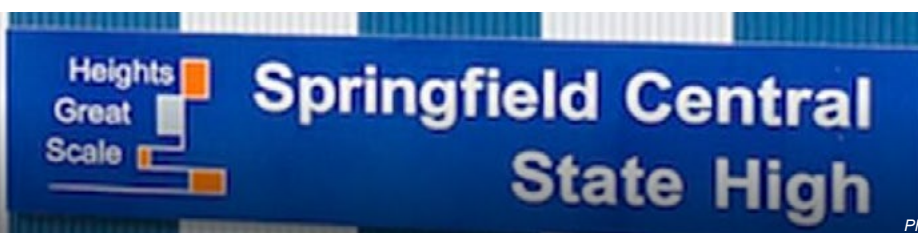


Photo from Springfield Central State High School Facebook page

Leadership

From an operational perspective, if the school has a single principal, feedback suggests the principal would ideally be located (at the new senior campus or existing Springfield Central SHS) so as to create one school identity the principal is to lead school culture and cohesion.

Accessing the two campuses

The proposed new campus is more than 850 metres away from the existing Springfield Central SHS campus. In order to access the two campuses, the community identified that adequate drop-off and pick-up zones, as well as active transport routes to and from the campuses, would be critical for efficient for accessing both campuses.

Integrating facilities and/or programs into the new senior campus design and community

Curriculum and learning opportunities are important aspects of the proposed new campus. The majority of those who participated in the community engagement process were in agreement that facilities and programs that focus on Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM); social activities and support services; arts and culture; and a multi-purpose sports hall, are necessary elements that should be considered when designing the new campus.

'Other' responses included feedback encouraging the Department to consider integrating into the new senior campus design; additional natural greenspace; multi-purpose sports facilities; engineering and construction workshops; Vocational Education and Training opportunities; climate and sustainability studies; a gym facility; hospitality venues; special needs services; sufficient car parking; a pool; and a student mental health and wellbeing support service hub.

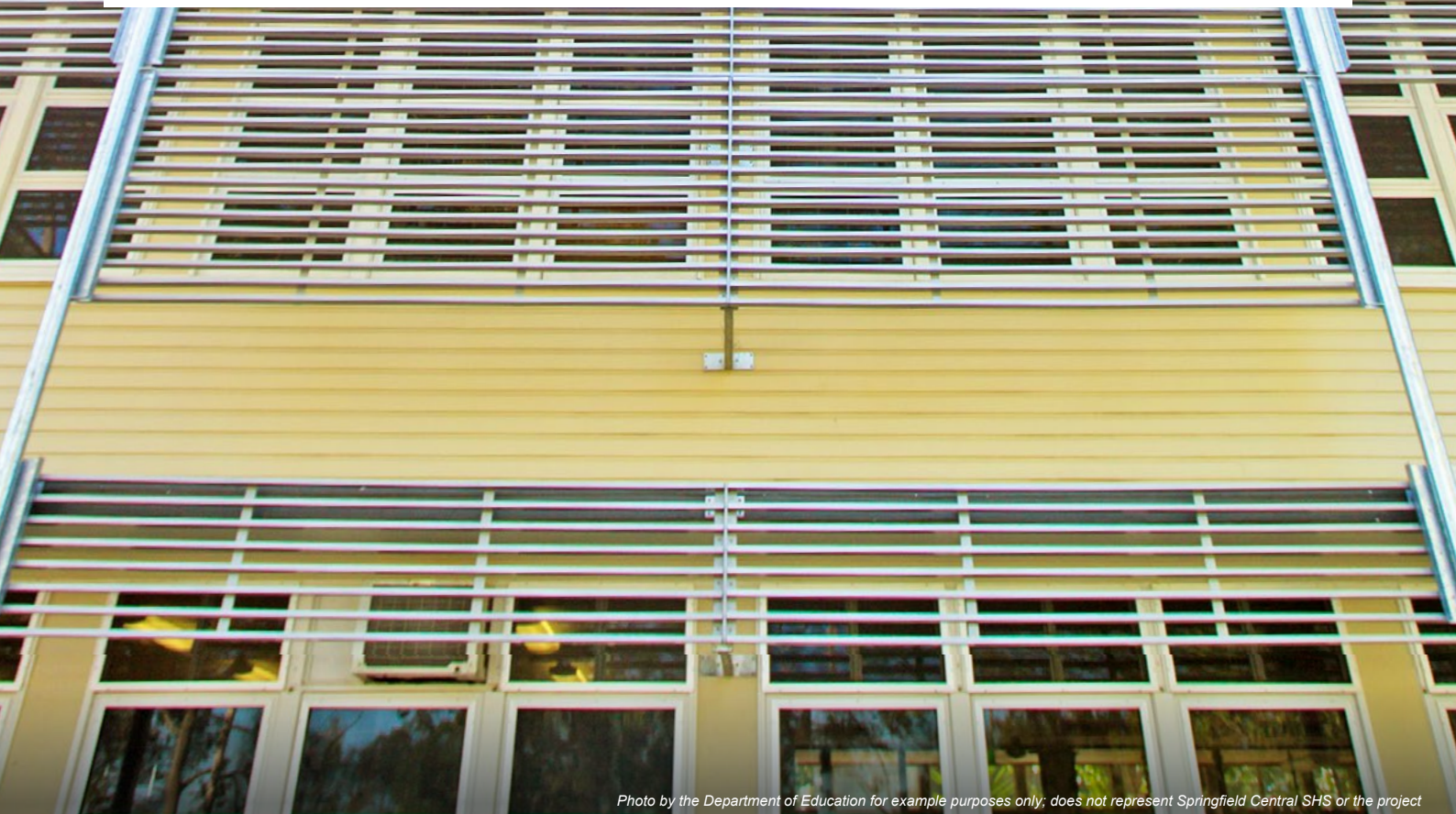


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Other suggestions resulting from the engagement

Respondents to the online survey and those who attended the face-to-face information session were invited to provide comment separate to the questions asked.

More than 80 comments were received and included the following topics:

- Traffic safety/congestion
- Sporting and athletics opportunities
- Natural and adequate greenspace and outdoor learning environments
- Car parking
- Public and active transport
- WesTEC specialised subjects
- Unreasonable location/distance from existing premises
- Project delay – current state high school lacks decent facilities/crowded classes
- Adequate footpaths/bikeways between campuses
- Academic focus and curriculum to teach life skills
- STEM focus
- All considerations to be implemented into junior school
- Teacher employment – need for more culturally diverse
- Accessible toilets
- Yarning circle
- Trade/apprentice opportunities
- Swimming pool
- The campus should have bright colours
- Multi-cultural awareness and inclusivity
- Performing arts opportunities and facilities with permanent stage
- Public access to performing arts centre/hall
- Adjusting the school catchment boundary so it better aligns with surrounding high schools
- Well-equipped resource/library centre.

Next steps

All feedback received throughout the two-week consultation period has been collated and summarised to help inform the Department's proposed new senior campus for Springfield Central SHS.

The Department will consider the information, ideas and options raised by the community, parents and carers, teachers and other educators, alongside expert technical advice, to inform the project.

The community will be kept up-to-date as the project progresses, with a Detailed Business Case (DBC) anticipated to be completed during 2025.