



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

**LILYDALE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

Presented to His Excellency the Governor pursuant to the provisions of the Public Works Committee Act 1914.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr Wilson (Chairman)
Mr Wing

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Mr Cox
Mr Goodluck
Mr Hidding

By Authority: Government Printer, Tasmania

To His Excellency the Honourable Sir Guy Stephen Montague Green, Companion of the Order of Australia, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY

The Committee has investigated the following proposal:—

LILYDALE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

and now has the honour to present the Report to Your Excellency in accordance with the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*.

INTRODUCTION

There has been a school in the district since 1870. The present site has been occupied by a school since 1883. It has been known as the Lilydale District High School since 1973. There are a number of different architectural styles present reflecting the 1880's, 1940's 1950's 1960's 1970's and 1980's.

A growing student population has resulted in seven classes being housed in temporary accommodation. Facilities for Materials, Design & Technology (MDT) are inadequate to cater to student needs. The Foods area is equipped for handling 18 students but has floor space for much fewer. Current classes are often 25 students. The Wood / Metal work area is inadequate and imposes limitations on student outcomes if safety issues are to be observed. The Science preparation area is totally inadequate and presents a potential safety issue. With the additional staff resulting from the school's growth the existing staff facilities are totally inadequate and the staff room is needed for a grade 9 / 10 classroom next year.

The school canteen is in an area that has inadequate access and presents a hazard particularly for small children. In a rural area such as this the canteen is an essential element in the service provided by the school.

Access to the school presents a major safety problem. 75% of students travel to school by bus and buses, cars and pedestrians must share the same very narrow access. The school community is fearful of a serious incident resulting from the traffic congestion.

The ultimate goal of the School Association is to ensure that the school offers an effective, efficient and user-friendly facility to the whole community for use beyond the needs of current students. One aspect of this is the introduction of Vocational Education Training courses in Viticulture, for which we are one of only two licensed providers in the state. At present we have not the classroom space to enrol grade 11 students in any courses.

The school was selected to be a 'Lighthouse' school for the purpose of modelling Directions for Education. The choice of the school was made on the basis of its leadership management and potential to achieve outcomes for students. The physical learning environment for many of the students is not supportive of this goal.

BRIEF

The brief of requirements as enunciated by the Department of Education, Training, Community and Cultural Development for the redevelopment and upgrading at Lilydale District High School is as follows:

1. Rationalisation of the school site to establish 3 distinct age groupings in the campus rather than the ad hoc classroom arrangements currently existing including relocating Kindergarten, Arts and Performing Arts to more appropriate facilities.
2. Separation of vehicular traffic from pedestrian traffic including the provision of suitable car parking, bus layby and student drop off areas all to ensure suitable facilities and a safer school environment.
3. Provide new MDT facilities incorporating the existing wood and metals area, a new design centre and arts/textiles facility.
4. Provide 3 new early childhood classrooms.
5. Relocate the staff room to provide an additional high school classroom. Location of staff room will allow better utilisation of a pre-existing building not suitable as a food technology space.

6. Relocation of the school tuck shop and food technology to a more central zone within the school accessible by all age groups.
7. Identify the appropriate location of new gymnasium and performing arts facilities and ensure that current development allows for and supports their future development.
8. Incorporation of appropriate landscaping to unify the site and formalise the school entry.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The development of the Lilydale District High School has been sequential with new classrooms and special teaching spaces being added as demand dictated.

Over time developments have been located on the site in an ad hoc manner producing arrangements where inappropriate activities are co-located and class groupings of different ages are placed together and/or worse completely separated from the remainder of the school by vehicle access and parking.

Accordingly the first development strategy has been to separate the pupils from the traffic. The second development strategy is to locate the three student groups in their own defined area.

The third development strategy reassigns buildings to their more appropriate function while being cognisant of the cost implications.

The forth development strategy ensures curriculum objectives and lighthouse principles are fulfilled by the opening up of the school to out of hours and community use by making facilities more accessible to the public.

The fifth development strategy recognises the unique Lilydale School site and ensures the placement of new and modified buildings, contribute to and enhance the rural nature of the school.

In detail the development will:

1. Relocate the Kindergarten away from the access road to the existing preparatory facility. The existing preparatory facility will be refurbished with new access ways, wet areas, cloak facilities and refurbished toilet areas.
2. Three new early childhood classrooms are provided to augment the existing buildings denoted as 2, 9, 11, and 13 to complete the complement of rooms serving kindergarten to grade 6.

These rooms are located on the Southern edge of the access road and will form a built edge, to make positive play space and complete the development of the early childhood campus zone.

3. The Middle School will be located toward the South-West corner of the existing buildings made up of blocks 3 and 4. Block 4 currently being used as performing and visual arts facilities will be redeveloped into 4 classrooms. New external covered ways will be incorporated to provide external circulation. The existing tuck shop will be cut back to provide better access to the Middle School and turned into a physical education store.

On completion the Middle School will be a unified centrally located but discrete unit within the school addressing the existing out-door concrete assembly area.

This area will be raised and re-asphalted to reduce trip hazards and ensure spaces are substantially more useable.

4. The Middle School existing 3 classrooms located in block 1 will increase to 4 classrooms with the relocation of 1 class from the "Cmak" building to provide a discrete zone with the relocation of the existing staff room to block 5.

The "Cmak" relocatable classrooms will house performing arts and provide a common room for seminars and students. The existing demountable double class room will be relocated from the site.

Only minimal funding will be spent to provide for the common room and performing parts relocation to the "Cmak" building.

5. The new staff room in block 5 will utilise one section of the existing manual arts area and provide additional office space for senior teachers and teacher aids.

6. The MDT (Materials Design Technology) facility will be redeveloped to place the appropriate emphasis on the role of design, construction and review of projects the curriculum planners have identified.

An emphasis has been placed on retaining as much of the existing workshop areas and machine layouts as possible to reduce costs.

Better access, covered ways, and ramp access to counter the existing difficult levels, and ease access is also included and this aspect of the proposal allows for the extension of the science store to appropriately cater for materials and equipment with Occupational Health & Safety requests.

7. Food technology and the tuckshop are to be co-located in building 10, allowing for the co-location of like activities and to bring the tuckshop into the geographical middle of the school.

The location of the tuckshop and food technology in this area recognises the next stage in the development of the Lilydale District High School where a new gymnasium and performing arts facility will be erected adjacent to and possibly connected with the Lilydale Memorial Hall in the future. The goods area would then be ideally located to provide catering facilities to both sporting, school and community cultural events.

COSTING

The available budget for this development is \$1 195 000.00.

This figure includes allowances for arts funding and a building works contingency together totalling \$47 800.00.

Building costs include allowances for mechanical, electrical, fire and hydraulic services.

	\$
Staff Room conversion to a 9/10 Classroom	20 000.00
Convert Music Arts Block to Middle School Classrooms.....	170 000.00
Refurbish Block 5 to Staff Room, Teachers offices and Aids Work Room.....	40 000.00
Modify Science Class Rooms and storage.....	40 000.00
New MDT	330 000.00
Covered ways linking MDT, science and Staff Room	50 000.00
3 New Class Rooms.....	260 000.00
Relocate Foods and Tuck Shop.....	130 000.00
Refurbish Early Childhood and Kinder	75 000.00
Performing Arts Relocate to Cmak.....	10 000.00
New Site Works and Car Park (\$270,000).....	<u>22 000.00</u>
TOTAL	1 147 000.00

In addition, funds for the whole of school computer cabling in line with New Directions for Education requirements of \$40 000.00 will be made available.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The proposed program for construction is as follows:

Call Tenders	18 July 1998
Close Tenders.....	12 August 1998
Anticipated Commencement Date	31 August 1998
Anticipated Completion Date	May 1998

It is intended that much of the works on site will be completed prior to the school recommencing in 1999.

EVIDENCE

The Committee commenced its inquiry on Wednesday, 3 June 1998. The Committee met at Lilydale District High School, inspected the existing facilities as well as the areas where new works are to be carried out and held a hearing on site.

The following witnesses gave evidence:

Mrs Helen French, Principal, Lilydale District High School,

Mr Andrew Floyd, Architect,

Mr Kevin Rodgers, Senior Executive Officer, Facilities Management, Department of Education Training, Community and Cultural Development and

Mr Neville Mathewson, President, Lilydale District High School Parents and Friends Association.

Mr Rodgers presented the submission on behalf of the witnesses and added "It is a school (which) through the management of the principal, Mrs Helen French, has developed an outstanding educational philosophy which is reflected in the community spirit that is generated. We have had a number of meetings with the community in discussing the proposals put forward and the interest taken by the community and the school gives us great warmth at what has been generated in this area.

There is no doubt from what we have seen this morning that there is a desperate need to bring the school together. There have been a number of areas over the years that have been ad hoc developments and they really do not suit the need of today's direction in education. Of course too there are a number of very old buildings that need to be refurbished that do not meet current standards required by the agency."

The School Principal, Mrs French, explained the background to the proposal now before the Committee. She stated "Our first prerogative when we embarked on this project was to look at the site we have here and the facilities and to address the need for a concept plan. The reason for that need would have been obvious to you as you were walking around. ... the buildings here have been supplied on demand, ... when demand reached an emergency stage and in that sort of situation not always is the best done in terms of providing facilities. So it seemed paramount to us that we actually develop a concept plan and that took a lot of our energy because we had to identify for our architect the basic philosophy of the teaching that goes on in the school, make clear what the concept of the middle school is and the importance of that in these children's lives, and recognise the inadequacy of some of the existing buildings."

The President of the Parents and Friends Association, Mr Mathewson, submitted to the Committee "we are quite impressed with the architect and the amount of consultation that has been held with parents and friends and with the general community as well. There is a definite need for the buildings to be changed, especially the ones over there where we, at the parents and friends, get constant complaints, both from parents—from their children via the parents—to us. The concept of having the buses going around through where the general traffic is has always been a worry to the parents and friends. There is an obvious shortage of space and appropriate classrooms for different areas."

The witnesses explained to the Committee that it is intended to have the new facilities to be available to be used by the community as much as possible. In certain areas such as the local library being integrated with the school library there remains some negotiation, but there is a strong sense of commitment to the community from the school and vice versa.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The evidence presented to the Committee demonstrated the need for the proposed work to be carried out.

Whilst the proposed work is seen to be necessary, the Committee remained concerned that the proposal did not provide enough facilities. There remains the need for a gymnasium, not simply an assembly hall, which in line with the school's philosophy could then serve as a facility for the whole community.

The Committee recommends that the matter of the construction of a gymnasium could be achieved by a joint Education Department and Launceston City Council arrangement. The Committee notes that discussions have commenced with the Launceston City Council to assist with the provision of further facilities.

Accordingly, the Committee recommends the proposed works, in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted, at an estimated total cost of \$1 195 000.