

Community Engagement Report

Sutherland Public School upgrade

18 December 2024

Contents

Purpose.....	2
Communications.....	3
Engagement activities.....	3
Project enquiries.....	4
Media.....	4
Appendix - Media	5

Purpose

This document has been prepared as an internal document to support the preparation of planning documentation for projects pursuing a Review of Environmental Factors planning pathway under Part 5. It is not for public release.

Communications

[The project page](#) is where all communications is kept, and the text is updated following a project update/ info pack distribution.

Date issued	Communication type with link to content	Summary of content	Distribution
October 2023	Planning update	Announcement, information re early planning and project delivery process	Distributed to school and letterbox drop to residents near site.
21 Sept 2023	Works notification	Investigation works	As above, in addition to Minerva SSP principal
April 2024	Planning update	Further update on early planning process	As above.
July 2024	Planning update	Design update and frequently asked questions re completion date and hall capacity.	As above
12 July 2024	Works notification	Site investigations – bore holes	As above, in addition to email list.
19 July 2024	Works notification	Noise monitoring	As above.
November 2024	Project update	Concept design complete/info session date	As above
December 2024	Information pack	Artist impressions, site map, timeline	As above

Engagement activities

- Information session held Thursday 5 December 2024, 3 – 6:30 pm in the existing hall at the school.
 - 17 people attended, all with students from the school, and several teachers.

- Feedback on project benefits and impacts was collected and the project team have taken a record for input into the Review of Environmental Factors report.

Project enquiries

Enquiries received via the School Infrastructure 1300 number:

- 2 email enquiries
- No phone enquiries
- From 1 enquirer

Key themes of enquiries were:

- General update on project progress.

Media

Announcement:

13 February 2023, *Labour promises to build new multi-purpose hall at Sutherland Public School*, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

27 September 2023, *Budget winners and losers*, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

Hall size

10 May 2024, *Promised hall at Sutherland Public School may not hold all the kids*, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

15 May 2024, *Promised hall is too small – some pupils will have to sit outside*, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

16 May 2024, *Update | Parents' feedback on Sutherland PS hall size to be incorporated in design work*, says Car

17 May 2024, *Win for school: Prue Car reassures Sutherland parents on size of new hall*, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

22 May 2024, *Win for school after hall doubts*, St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

Appendix - Media

10/05/2024, 10:06

Labor promises to build new multi-purpose hall at Sutherland Public School | St George & Sutherland Shire Leader | St Geor..



Leader



[view](#) [St George & Sutherland Shire Leader's complete view of property.](#)

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Local News](#)

Labor promises to build new multi-purpose hall at Sutherland Public School



By [Murray Trembath](#)

Updated February 13 2023 - 2:35pm, first published February 8 2023 - 4:00pm



📷 Maryanne Stuart (front left), Prue Car and Mark Buttigieg MLC with Sutherland Public School parents (rear from left) Meryl Goddard and daughter Sophie, Natalie Simonian, Mark Goddard and Natt Davis. Picture by Chris Lane

Labor is promising to build a multi-purpose school hall at Sutherland Public School if it wins the March 25 state election.

Deputy State Opposition Leader and spokeswoman on education, Prue Car made the commitment with Labor candidate for Heathcote, Maryanne Stuart on Wednesday.

They said the school currently doesn't have a school hall, and the 340 students are forced to go offsite for assemblies or large indoor events.

The promised hall project will include new toilets and canteen facilities.



Ms Car said the project would be completed within the first term of a Minns Labor Government, allowing whole-of-school assemblies on site, as well as an indoor sport area during poor weather.

"The Sutherland Public School community have gone without a proper school hall for too long," she said.

Ms Car said Labor's schools policy also includes:

- New co-located preschools, with 100 new public preschools and 50 new and expanded preschools at Catholic and Independent schools.
- Converting 10,000 casual teachers to permanent positions to reduce the reliance on temporary teachers.
- Cutting administration hours for teachers by five hours per week.
- Banning the use of mobile phones in all NSW public schools to reduce distraction, cyberbullying and improve education outcomes.
- Ending the failed overseas recruitment program and redirecting resources towards recruiting NSW teaching students into schools.
- Expanding co-ed school access for all families so every parent has the choice of where to send their children.
- Labor's Growth Areas Schools Plan, which will deliver new and upgraded schools in growing areas across New South Wales.

Budget winners and losers

BY MURRAY TREMBATH

THE state budget provides continuing funding for major infrastructure in St George, with modest sums for some new initiatives.

However, the Opposition accused the government of failing the region, with promised funding to help rebuild Carrs Park pool a noticeable omission.

Big ticket items include an allocation of \$1.5 billion this year towards the \$3.1 billion cost of the M6 Stage 1 tollway between Arncliffe and Kogarah.

A further \$653 billion has been allocated towards the \$2.6 billion Sydney Gateway link from WestConnex to Sydney Airport.

The final stage of the rebuilding of St George Hospital, which will bring together a range of ambulatory, outpatient and community health services, has received \$294 million in funding towards the \$411 million cost.

The project is expected to be completed in late 2025 and opened in 2026.

The \$2.7 billion rail program, More Trains, More



Chris Minns joins in sod turning for the final stage of the St George Hospital rebuild, which received further funding of \$294 million in the budget. Picture by John Veage

Services, which will deliver more and faster services to the Illawarra and South Coast lines, is also progressing, albeit more slowly than initially projected.

The new inter-city fleet of

trains may not be delivered until 2024.

Other budget allocations, some of which result from 2023 election commitments, include:

Roads: A further \$110

million will be spent widening King Georges Road from Stoney Creek Road to Connells Point Road.

Education: An upgrade of Kogarah Public School is funded, as is a new mul-



Community rally to save Carrs Park pool.

ti-purpose hall at Sutherland Public School.

Environment: \$8.8 million is being spent on incorporating additional land within Wolli Creek Regional Park.

Oatley MP Mark Coure said the budget failed to provide funding for a number of important projects in the St George district.

They included the rebuilding of Carrs Park pool, which Labor has pledged to help fund.

Mr Coure said there was also no funding to acquire heritage property Glenlee, upgrade Peakhurst West Swimming Pool or any local

schools, including Narwee Public School and Oatley West Public School.

The budget had also failed to deliver funding for the Oatley to Como walk-cycle path, and upgrade of Belmore Road and bridge widening at Riverwood.

"It appears Labor has forgotten about our area," Mr Coure said.

"What this budget did include were cuts to many programs, including Active Kids, critical infrastructure projects, innovation, arts and culture, the Community Building Partnership Program and cost-of-living measures."

Promised new hall at Sutherland Public School may not hold all the kids



By [Murray Trembath](#)

Updated May 10 2024 - 6:48am, first published 6:44am



📷 Election promise in February 2023: Maryanne Stuart (front left), Prue Car and Mark Buttigieg MLC with Sutherland Public School parents (rear from left) Meryl Goddard and daughter Sophie, Natalie Simonian, Mark Goddard and Natt Davis. Picture by Chris Lane

Parents fear a Labor Party election promise to build a new multi-purpose hall at Sutherland Public School that would allow "whole-of-school assemblies" will be broken.

Parents have been told none of the options being considered by the Department of Education would accommodate the present 340 pupils and about 20 staff, let alone parents.

While most of the pupils would fit inside, the rest would have to sit outside in an adjoining COLA (covered outdoor learning area).



**PRUE CAR MP
NSW LABOR DEPUTY LEADER
NSW SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION**

**MARYANNE STUART
NSW LABOR CANDIDATE FOR HEATHCOTE**

LABOR WILL BUILD SCHOOL HALL AT SUTHERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

A Minns Labor Government will build a multi-purpose school hall at Sutherland Public School to ensure the local school community has improved educational facilities.

Sutherland Public School currently doesn't have a school hall, with the school's 340 students forced to go offsite for assemblies or large indoor events.

The hall project will also include new toilets and canteen facilities for the school.

A new hall will allow the school to hold whole-of-school assemblies on site, as well as deliver indoor sport during poor weather.

The project will be completed within the first term of a Minns Labor Government.

📎 The media release issued in February 2023.

Meryl Remedios, who was among parents who gathered for the election promise by then Shadow Education Minister Pru Car and Heathcote candidate Maryanne Stuart in February 2023 said, "This is clearly not what was promised, and is unacceptable".

The media release, issued by Ms Car and Ms Stuart, stated: "A new hall will allow the school to hold whole-of-school assemblies on site, as well as deliver indoor sport during wet weather".

Ms Car, who is now the Deputy Premier and Education Minister, told parliament this week following a question from Miranda MP Eleni Petinos, the government was "working on fulfilling this election commitment".

"We will work through the detail of those concerns about the delivery of the commitment with that community," she said.

Ms Stuart told the *Leader* she had met with Ms Car "to express concern with the information provided by the P&C representative".

"The P&C attended a meeting with School Infrastructure on Monday May 6 at my request, to discuss the proposed school hall," she said.

"I am advised that there are four draft options of a hall, which were all 'not fit for purpose' that is, the proposed hall sizes could not

cater for all current students and their families."

Ms Stuart said Ms Car was organising a meeting with the department's school infrastructure representatives for Tuesday May 14 "to discuss the government's commitment to build a school hall, which is fit for purpose for a school community in a high growth area"

Ms Stuart said she would be attending and would report back to the P&C and school community.

Ms Stuart said the previous government had been in office for 12 years, and had never made a commitment to build a new hall at the school.

Ms Remedios said Ms Car's response in parliament still lacked a firm undertaking to build a hall that would accommodate the entire school community.

At present, all-of-school assemblies had to be held outdoors or, in bad weather, via Zoom, she said.

Ms Remedios said the school was on a large site, with three potential sites for the hall and parents had not been advised of any factors that would prevent a hall being built to accommodate the entire school.



15 MAY, 2024

Promised hall is too small

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Sydney

Page 1 of 2

Some pupils will have to sit outside Promised hall is too small

BY MURRAY TREMBATH

PARENTS fear a Labor Party election promise to build a new multi-purpose hall at Sutherland Public School that would allow "whole-of-school assemblies" will be broken.

Parents have been told none of the options being considered by the Department of Education would accommodate the present 340 pupils and about 20 staff, let alone parents.

While most of the pupils would fit inside, the rest would have to sit outside in an adjoining COLA (covered outdoor learning area).

Meryl Remedios, who was among parents who gathered for the election promise by then Shadow Education Minister Pru Car and Heathcote candidate Maryanne Stuart in February 2023 said, "This is clearly not what was promised, and is unacceptable".

The media release, issued by Ms Car and Ms Stuart, stated: "A new hall will allow the school to hold whole-of-school assemblies on site, as well as deliver indoor sport during wet weather".

Ms Car, who is now the Deputy Premier and Education Minister, told parliament this week following a ques-

tion from Miranda MP Eleni Petinos, the government was "working on fulfilling this election commitment".

"We will work through the detail of those concerns about the delivery of the commitment with that community," she said.

Ms Stuart told the *Leader* she had met with Ms Car "to express concern with the information provided by the P&C representative".

"The P&C attended a meeting with School Infrastructure on Monday May 6 at my request, to discuss the proposed school hall," she said.

"I am advised that there are four draft options of a hall, which were all 'not fit for purpose' that is, the proposed hall sizes could not cater for all current students and their families."

Ms Stuart said Ms Car was organising a meeting with the department's school infrastructure representatives for Tuesday May 14 "to discuss the government's commitment to build a school hall, which is fit for purpose for a school community in a high growth area".

Ms Stuart said she would be attending and would report back to the P&C and school community.

Ms Stuart said the previous government had been in office for 12 years, and had never made a commitment to build a new hall at the school.

Ms Remedios said Ms Car's response in parliament still lacked a firm undertaking for a fit-for-purpose hall.

At present, all-of-school assemblies had to be held outdoors or, in bad weather, via Zoom, she said.

Ms Remedios said the school occupied a large site, with three potential sites.



Promising the new hall in February 2023 - Maryanne Stuart (front left), Pru Car and Mark Buttigieg MLC with parents Meryl Goddard and daughter Sophie, Natalie Simonian, Mark Goddard and Natt Davis. Picture by Chris Lane



Update | Parents' feedback on Sutherland PS hall size to be incorporated in design work, says Car



By Murray Trembath

Updated May 16 2024 - 7:07am, first published 7:00am



State Opposition and parents outside the school - Chloe He (P&C Vice-President) left, Eleni Petinos, Meryl Goddard (P&C President), Mark Speakman, Sarah Mitchell, Todd Brunton (P&C Treasurer) and his daughter, Kayla. Picture by Chris Lane

Update

Parents' concerns that a new school hall to be built at Sutherland Public School will not fit all pupils and staff will be "incorporated as part of design works", says a spokesperson for Minister for Education and Early Learning Prue Car.

A statement was released ahead of a scheduled meeting today between Ms Car and Education Department infrastructure officials.

The statement came after the State Opposition showed support for the school community on Wednesday morning.

16/05/2024, 08:30

Deputy Premier Prue Car to Meet Officials Over Sutherland School Hall | St George & Sutherland Shire Leader | St George, ...

Ms Car has yet to confirm a 2023 election promise that the hall will allow the entire school to be accommodated.

"The NSW Labor Government is fulfilling its election commitment to deliver a new multipurpose school hall for Sutherland Public School," the spokesperson said.

"The multi-million hall will be delivered by the NSW Labor Government in its first term, after the Liberals and Nationals failed to deliver for the Sutherland Public School community for 12 years.

"Indicative plans were recently shared with the P&C, and their feedback will be incorporated as part of the design works for the new school hall.

"The NSW Labor Government is delivering record school infrastructure investment and an historic wage increase for teachers.

"The Liberals and Nationals have continually opposed the wage increases for all of NSW public school teachers, including the 1876 teachers in the Sutherland Shire.

"We are committed to addressing the school infrastructure backlog left after 12 years of neglect by the Liberals and Nationals, lifting student outcomes, and restoring respect for our valued teacher workforce as part of our long-term plan to repair public education in NSW."

Earlier

A meeting to determine whether a promised new school hall at Sutherland Public School will be large enough to fit all students and staff was postponed.

Win for school: Prue Car reassures Sutherland parents on size of new hall



By [Murray Trembath](#)

Updated May 17 2024 - 3:35pm, first published 3:34pm



 Promising the new hall in February 2023 - Maryanne Stuart (front left), Prue Car and Mark Buttigieg MLC with parents Meryl Goddard and daughter Sophie, Natalie Simonian, Mark Goddard and Natt Davis. Picture by Chris Lane

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Prue Car has finally assured parents a new hall to be built at Sutherland Public School will be large enough to cater for whole-of-school assemblies.

After more than a week of uncertainty and statements that lacked a clear undertaking, Ms Car issued a statement on Friday afternoon confirming the election promise she made in February 2023.

"The NSW Government is committed to working with Sutherland Public School on a layout for the new school hall that can facilitate school functions, including accommodating all students and teachers for whole-of-school assemblies," Ms Car said.

20/05/2024, 08:01

Sutherland Public School Hall: Promise To Be Fulfilled | St George & Sutherland Shire Leader | St George, NSW



"A new hall that is fit for purpose is long overdue and we look forward to the delivery of the hall as soon as possible, and by no later than Term 1, 2027.

"Our kids deserve nothing less than what they were promised."

Opposition Leader Mark Speakman had earlier accused the government of "hiding behind weasel words, instead of giving a clear commitment to honour the election promise."

Mr Speakman added, "And, they still won't explain how they can get a hall for 340 students for \$4 million?"

The Opposition showed support for the school community on Wednesday morning.



22 MAY, 2024

Win for school after hall doubts

St George & Sutherland Shire Leader, Sydney

Page 1 of 1

Win for school after hall doubts

DEPUTY Premier and Education Minister Prue Car says a promised new hall at Sutherland Public School will be large enough to fit all students and teachers.

Ms Car said the government was committed to working with the school "on a layout that can facilitate school functions, including accommodating all students and teachers for whole-of-school assemblies".

Heathcote MP Maryanne Stuart said the hall "will be fit for purpose-large enough for whole of school assemblies, students and staff".

"With regards to space to play sport, the hall will have basketball court surfacing to enable indoor sports," Ms Stuart said. "It's planned to include the canteen and toilet facilities."

P&C president Meryl Remedios welcomed the assurances, adding, "We appreciate the advocacy of our local member, Maryanne Stuart and the Opposition".

Mark Speakman had earlier claimed the government was "hiding behind weasel words", instead of confirming its 2023 election pledge.



P&C reps and Opposition MPs. Picture by Chris Lane

— MURRAY TREMBATH

**SUTHERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL
NEW HALL PROJECT**

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK REGISTER

Issue Date: 23/12/24

Who?	When?	Stakeholder Comment	Project Team Comments	
P&C	Public Announcement - 2023	Several articles published publically in Sutherland Shire Leader noting community backlash that the new hall wouldn't fit all of the students. Refer community engagement report for extract of articles.	Hall scope adjusted to a Medium size school hall as per EFSG that will fit the full school student population.	
Parent	Community Info Session - 05 Dec 24	Will the hall have an AV system for projecting presentations / movies etc.	Hall includes an EFSG compliant audio visual system that will be designed and installed by the Contractor, including projector, screen, speaker lighting etc.	
Parent	Community Info Session - 05 Dec 24	Will the main hall lights be dimmable?	Confirmed with electrical engineer that main hall lights will be dimmable.	
Parent	Community Info Session - 05 Dec 24	Suggested movable/opening walls for the storage rooms / ancillary spaces.	The design is as per the EFSG requirements for a medium hall, which does not require operable walls for storage spaces. Advised stakeholder be getting confused with teaching spaces that do have operable walls, however halls storage spaces do not require these.	
Teacher	Community Info Session - 05 Dec 24	Noted large amounts of stormwater runoff during rain events from Block B towards Block A.	Project Manager advised that the stormwater design includes strip drains to collect existing overland flow and divert away from the hall. Civil an stormwater design is being prepared by the civil engineer to comply with EFSG and Australian Standards.	