

Appendix 10 – Schedule 8 Design Quality Principles in Schools

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Version History

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Introduction

Creating and maintaining safe, functional and well-maintained schools has been an important consideration in the design of the proposed heritage conservation works to Block A and Block B of the Leichhardt Public School by the Department.

“The Design Guide for Schools” prepared by the Office of the Government Architect NSW, 2025 (Guide) provides guidance for heritage conservation works. Section 1.2 of the Guide states that the 7 design quality principles in Schedule 8 of the TI SEPP must be applied by designers and the approval authority when granting approval for new schools and school building upgrades.

Subsection 3.37(5A) of the TISEPP states:

(5A) A public authority, or a person acting on behalf of a public authority, must not carry out development under this section unless the authority or person has considered the following—

(a) the design quality of the development, evaluated in accordance with the design quality principles set out in Schedule 8,

(b) the design principles set out in the design guide.

Part 2 of the Guide has been used in the assessment of the TI SEPP Schedule 8 “Design Quality Principles” (see Assessment below)

Part 2 of the Guide provides guidance to how to apply the principles to the design of new schools and school building upgrades.

The following provides an assessment of the proposal in relation to the design quality principles set out in Schedule 8 of the TI SEPP.

Assessment - Schedule 8 Design quality principles in schools

Principle 1—Responsive to context

Comment: The proposed works are to existing buildings (Block A and Block B at Leichhardt Public School). The location of Block A and Block B in the streetscape has been considered as the buildings are in the vicinity of the commercial Civic Centre. The area is significant as it contains a group of buildings including the Town Hall, former Post Office, Church, Leichhardt Public School and the Leichhardt Fire Station.

It is considered that the works will enhance the stability, condition, appearance and longevity of the buildings.

An Arboricultural Assessment Report has been prepared for the proposal as three trees require pruning due to the location of scaffolding during the proposed works. There is no native vegetation required to be removed for the proposed activity.

As such the proposal recognizes and protects the visual setting and natural environment.

The proposed works have been guided by the heritage nature of the Leichhardt Public School.

The school is identified as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Part 1 Heritage Item in the *Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022* (IWLEP) (listing No. 11138) and is listed on the s.170 NSW State agency heritage register. A separate Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared for each of the Blocks and the works will be supervised by an appropriately qualified heritage architect with experience working on similar heritage buildings.

As the proposal is limited to restoration works to the existing buildings and there is no ground disturbance, it is therefore not anticipated that the works will disturb, damage, or destroy any Aboriginal object.

Principle 2—Sustainable, efficient and resilient

Comment: Good design combines positive environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Following the proposed works the school buildings will be more durable and resilient to meet the ongoing needs of the school into the future.

Principle 3—Accessible and inclusive

Comment: School buildings and their grounds should provide wayfinding and be welcoming, accessible and inclusive to people with differing needs and capabilities.

The proposal does not change existing aspects of Block A and Block B related to Principle 3.

Principle 4—Health and safe

Comment: Good school development optimises health, safety and security within its boundaries and the surrounding public domain, and balances this with the need to create a welcoming and accessible environment.

The proposal satisfies this principle as it will provide well maintained welcoming buildings within a safe and secure location.

Principle 5—Functional and comfortable

Comment: Schools should provide pleasant and engaging spaces that are accessible for a wide range of educational, informal and community activities, while also considering the amenity of adjacent development and the local neighbourhood.

The buildings are visible in the streetscape and the proposal will protect the amenity of adjacent properties.

Principle 6—Flexible and adaptable

Comment: The proposed works to the school buildings has considered future needs of the school and will ensure the buildings are safe, functional and well- maintained into the future. This will allow for the flexible use of the buildings into the future to meet the changing needs of the school.

Principle 7—Visual appealing

Comment: The existing Block A and Block B school buildings and their existing setting is aesthetically pleasing and the proposed works will improve the visual appeal through the maintenance and stonework repairs.

The school is located in a significant heritage civic area containing the following heritage items listed in the Inner West LEP 2022:

- Leichhardt Town Hall (item I1139)
- Corner shop and residence (item I1141)
- Leichhardt Fire Station (item I1127)
- All Souls Church (item I1142)
- Former Leichhardt Post Office (item I1140)

The SoHI states that the proposed works to Block A and Block B Leichhardt Public School will not alter the external appearance of the buildings. Therefore, the proposed work will have no adverse impact on adjacent heritage items or the Wetherill Estate Heritage Conservation Area (C59).

It is considered the proposal will have a positive impact on the quality and character of the locality and the quality and sense of identity of the school within the surrounding neighbourhood.