

To Whom It May Concern:

School Infrastructure NSW

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14 February 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

As President, and on behalf of the P&C community, I am writing to seek a response addressing the ongoing concerns regarding the progress of the Lane Cove Public School Hall building project.

It has been over four years since the devastating fire that destroyed our school hall on 21 January 2020. Despite this significant event, the project seems to have moved at a frustratingly slow pace, now with the involvement of a second builder. Since April last year, we've been informed that the completion of the project was only eight weeks away. Prior to and following the administration of Lloyd Group, messages of delays and setbacks were communicated. A slow tender process took place, and a new builder was finally appointed in September 2023, as communicated to parents by the Department of Education. However, progress remains stagnant. The lack of visible activity on site and the absence of a clear timeline for commencement of works have left our community feeling disheartened and uncertain. We have only received one update at a P&C meeting on 24 October 2023, where the principal stated that works would begin in November. It is now mid-February, four months later, with no hall and no date in sight for commencement of works.

The impact of this prolonged delay extends far beyond the physical absence of the hall. The hall was the heart of the school and wider school community. Our school assembly now takes place on hot astro turf, leaving students exposed to all weather conditions. It was also where children spent recess and lunch during wet or hot weather. Additionally, the limited space has affected the operations of our Out of School Hours (OOSH) program and forced school fundraisers and events to be relocated at added expense.

Moreover, the loss of revenue due to community groups (including a weekly church service) being unable to utilise the space, a shortage of available school holiday activities options in our area, and the need to conduct and fund band rehearsals offsite have all contributed to the disruption experienced by our school community. Our 2023 end of year assembly was required to be moved to a local high school hall, costing the P&C and school \$6,000 in buses to transport children.

Most concerning is the decline in enrolment numbers from 890 in 2020 to 731 in 2024, indicating the significant toll this situation has taken on our school's reputation and desirability.

Therefore, I urge you to provide the school community with the following updates:

1. Confirmation of when construction works will commence.
2. An estimated completion date for the project.
3. Commitment to regular progress updates.

A prompt response and resolution to this matter are essential for the well-being and morale of our school community.

I eagerly await your response and trust that we can work together towards a swift and satisfactory outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Caleb Taylor

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