



# AMAROO SCHOOL EXPANSION

## OVERVIEW

The Amaroo School Expansion project began with the delivery of a Class 9b 1650m<sup>2</sup> new build under a two-phase GC21 head contract, the objective of which was to house an additional 175 students in response to significant population growth at the school. The building included flexible, collaborative and open plan learning spaces, staff and student amenities, office spaces, two large food technology classrooms featuring commercial grade kitchen equipment, and a dance and performing studio.

In addition, Projex completed the refurbishment of STEM and general learning spaces within the existing facilities. This included wet and dry science labs, 3D art, media, and general learning areas and a significant upgrade to an existing theatre. The works ensured that the learning spaces provided within the school would suit the growing population, evolving pedagogy and school curriculum.

Finally, the works also included the construction of a new bike shed for students and staff.



## PROJECT DELIVERABLES

**CLIENT**  
Major Projects Canberra & ACT  
Education

**ARCHITECT/REFEREE**  
Clarke Keller

**DELIVERY MODEL**  
Lump Sum

**PROJECT SECTOR**  
Education

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### KEY CHALLENGES

The project presented a number of key challenges: a detailed design phase requiring extensive coordination with stakeholders and user groups, working in an operational environment, complying with technical specifications, and delivering the project to a tight deadline during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns.

In order to reach completion by Term 1 2022, Projex worked with MPC and ACT Education to develop an early works package and enable immediate mobilisation on site. The accelerated program improved the construction phase by approximately 4 weeks and was critical to successfully achieving the required handover date and subsequent user occupation.

A significant challenge was the management of works within the school grounds; in particular the installation of a 200 metre submain run back to the main distribution board, an 80 metre run to the nearest stormwater connection point, and extension of the existing hydrant system to provide coverage to the new building. Both required investigations to utilise existing underground provisions, and, where this was not possible, new installations via mechanical excavation. All of the works were undertaken in the central courtyard of the school with the highest level of student activity. Projex undertook multiple workshops with the MPC, ACT Education and Amaroo School, developing short-range programs and modified site establishment plans to ensure the works could be undertaken safely and without impact to the overall program.

There were two major design considerations for the project defined by the ACT Education Technical specification, including compliance with the NCC 2019 Air-Permeability requirements and Acoustic performance standards. Both required ongoing coordination with specialist consultants to develop the design and subsequent construction methodology that would seek to maximise performance and compliance with the project requirements. Projex completed third-party testing on completion, demonstrating compliance in both areas.

Further to the above, Projex worked with the Independent Commissioning Agent who completed various design reviews, participated in design workshops, and completed inspections and verification activities throughout construction. Projex remained diligent in accommodating the ICA, providing the required supporting information regarding technical data/specifications, testing and results, ITPs, certificates and handover manuals for review and verification of compliance.

