	Paper No.: 5515T816
	Date: 16/7/15
	Member: Mr. WATTS
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<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated, by leave	Remainder incorporated, by leave
Clerk at the Table: <i>M. King</i>	

ASSEMBLY HALL PROPOSAL
 TOOOWOMBA STATE HIGH
 SCHOOL, WILSONTON CAMPUS
 14 March 2014



TOOWOOMBA
 STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Background:

Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton campus was established in 1998 as a junior secondary campus of Toowoomba State High School. From 1998 until 2011, students in Years 8 to 10 enrolled and then attended Toowoomba State High School, Mt Lofty campus for Years 11 and 12. In 2011, the first group of year 11 students remained at the Wilsonton campus to complete their senior schooling.

The Wilsonton Campus has a current enrolment of 711, with students in Years 8 to 12. With the addition of Year 7 in 2015, it is expected that the campus may reach an enrolment of approximately 850. Work will commence in early April on a new General Learning Area building and seven classrooms have already been refurbished in preparation for the increasing enrolments.

Toowoomba State High School, Wilsonton campus has no indoor facility capable of accommodating the whole school for assemblies or conducting indoor sporting activities. The Asian Languages Centre on campus has a lecture theatre that accommodates 170 students and so is only suitable for cohort assemblies. With additional chairs on the floor taking up part of the presentation area, two year groups can be brought together, but it is crowded and not comfortable.

Impact of the absence of a hall:

Curriculum restrictions:

- Currently no building exists at Wilsonton Campus to adequately accommodate students for key assessment tasks (for example, QCS and end-of-semester exams)
- Facilities at Mt Lofty cannot realistically be accessed by Wilsonton students due to the distance between the campuses (4.6km with a busy Railway Crossing in the middle).
- There is currently no adequate venue in which dance, drama and music students and the school bands can perform to a parent or larger student audience.
- Indoor Sports cannot be played and cannot be included in the P.E. program, and P.E. lessons are frequently disrupted because of adverse weather conditions.

School Culture, Health and Well-Being

Whole-school assemblies are not possible at present. With an expected enrolment of 850 students in 2015, separate cohort assemblies will need to be held. This deprives students of a sense of community, pride and school spirit; the opportunity to celebrate school success; a feeling of belonging; and opportunities for mentorship and role modelling between senior and junior students.

Physical Health

Wilsonton Campus is in an open, exposed location. It is cold and windy in winter and very hot in summer. There is no adequate indoor option in inclement or other adverse weather conditions for students during lunch breaks and P.E. lessons.

Parent & Community Engagement

Halls provide an opportunity for parent and community engagement. Wilsonton Campus is developing a rich culture in the area of performance art which is hampered by the lack of a suitable rehearsal/performance venue. This year the Summer Arts Festival was held outside on an open, grassy area in late October; performers and audience alike struggled to enjoy the evening due to the untimely cold and windy weather.

P&C Involvement

There is one Parents and Citizens Association at Toowoomba State High School. Parents from both campuses attend these meetings. Two years ago, the P&C resolved to accumulate funds to support the school in providing a covered area for sporting activities. The campus has an outdoor multi-purpose court facility with two courts.

Representatives from the P&C Association attended Community Cabinet held in Toowoomba in November 2013 and met with Dr Jim Watterston, Director-General to discuss the Association's concern about the lack of an Assembly hall at the school's Wilsonton campus. They raised the issues outlined above.

The Director-General requested that Mr John Brazier, Regional Facilities Manager, DDSW meet with school and P&C representatives to consider the type of structure that would be appropriate and explore some architectural designs. This meeting has occurred and a draft floor plan was presented. Consultation has now occurred with key personnel in the school about the design. As a result, a Concept Plan has been developed as outlined below:

Concept Plan

General Description:

- Assembly hall with seating capacity of 900.
- Brick and Corrugated Iron exterior to blend-in with existing buildings.
- Positioned centrally within the school.
- Primary function will be an assembly venue where the whole school can be gathered under cover.
- The Hall will also function as a performing arts centre of excellence and, therefore, a professional, performance stage will be essential.
- Hall will also have the capacity to be used for low-impact sports such as badminton as well as other physical education activities.
- The mid-section ceiling will be raised - to include glass panels, allowing natural lighting for energy efficiency.

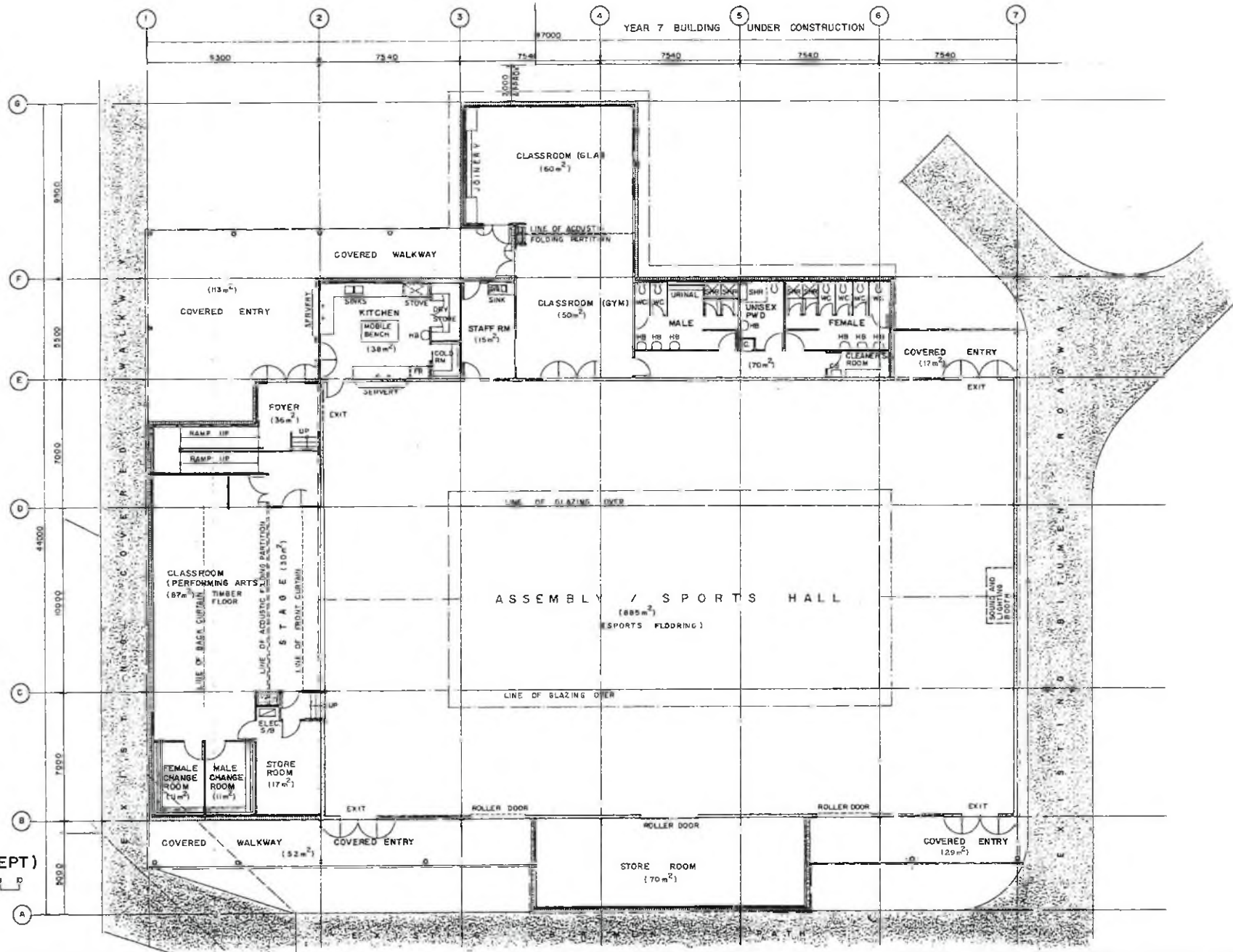
Internal Configuration

- One, large classroom space (rear section of the stage).
- Two other classroom spaces. One used as a gym and the other, a general learning space.

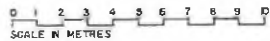
- Toilets, showers and change rooms.
- Dressing rooms adjacent to the stage.
- Main entrance Foyer
- Large kitchen, equipped for catering.
- Storage rooms with the capacity to store 900 seats as well as sporting equipment.
- Small staffroom (6 X staff).

Fit-out

- Sound and Lighting booth at rear of hall.
- Wiring from stage to sound booth.
- Ceiling mounted stage lighting bar (either protected by cage or removable).
- Walls to be lined with acoustic insulation and internal, timber panelling (sufficient to sustain impact from sports activities).
- Acoustics - engineered to be suitable for quality performances.
- 2 X ceiling mounted projectors and automatic roll-down data screens.
- Stage height to be 60cm.
- Stage to have a Front curtain and centre folding partition.
- Centrally mounted bank of speakers.
- Rebound ace surface for flooring (same surface as St Monica's Hall).



FLOOR PLAN (CONCEPT)



PROJECT PROPOSED ASSEMBLY / SPORTS HALL AT WILSONTON S.H.S.	CLIENT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT
PROJECT ADDRESS 275 NORTH STREET TOOWOOMBA	

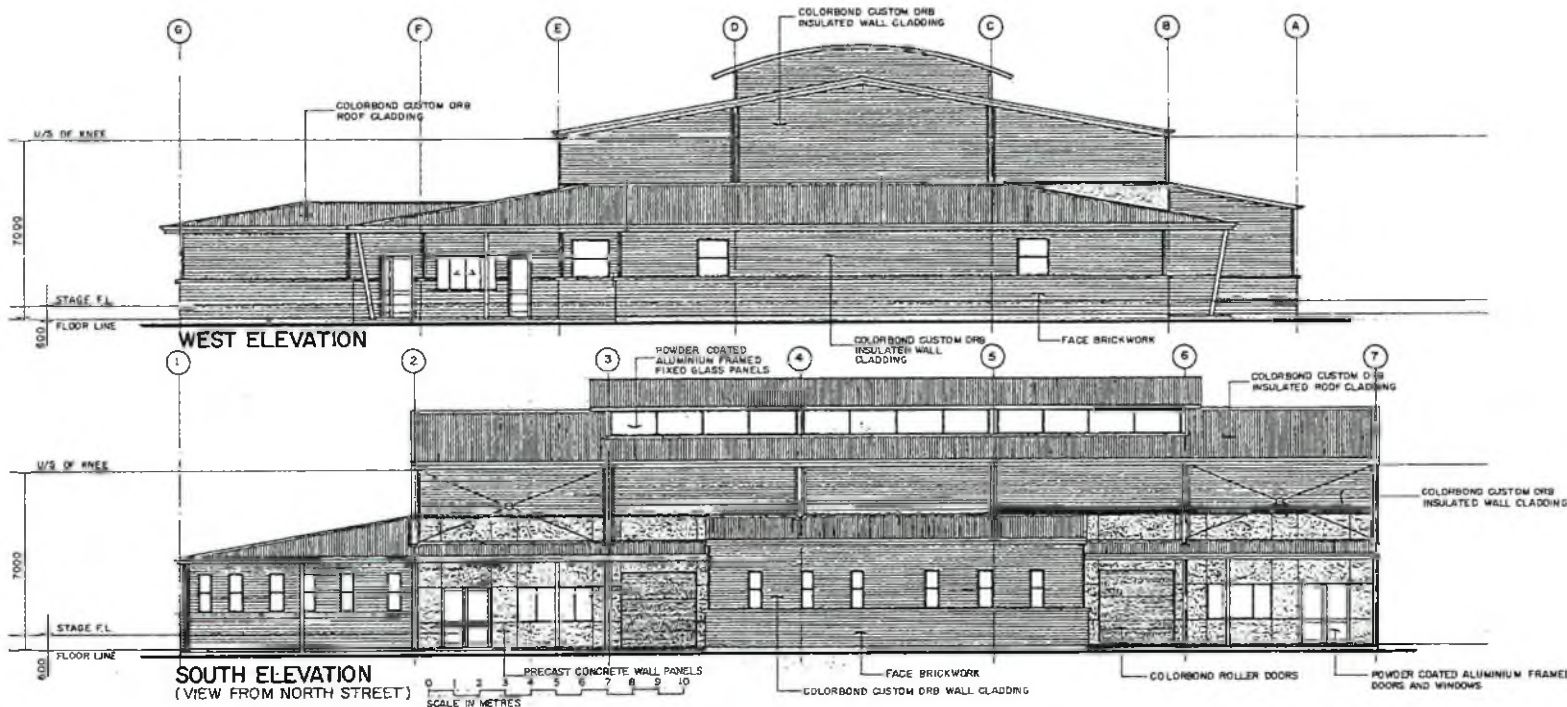
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		21/04/13	PRELIMINARY ISSUE	A

DRAWING TITLE FLOOR PLAN (CONCEPT)			
DRAWN RJF	DESIGNED RJF	SCALE AS SHOWN	DRAWING No. 2
PROJECT No.	DATE APRIL 2014	ISSUE A	





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DRAWN R/JF	DESIGNED R/JF	SCALE AS SHOWN	DRAWING No. 3
PROJECT No.	DATE APRIL 2014	ISSUE A	