

### Learning Environments Australasia 19th Annual Conference

**28-31 MAY 2019** Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre transformance.a4le.org.au



## WILLETTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL – STAGES 1 & 2 Pinetree Gully Road, Willetton

Architect: Hassell Architects

**Building Contractor:** Cockram (Stage 1) and PACT (Stage 2)

#### **Educational and architectural ideas:**

Willetton SHS is a leading Independent Public School with a strong academic culture and community, and the State's largest student population. The project commenced with masterplanning in 2012, and this project includes the completion of two stages between 2013 and 2017.

The faculty based approach of the existing school academic culture has been retained, while providing more opportunities for inter-curriculum connections and external learning spaces. Opportunities are provided for motivated staff and students to use spaces in different ways to support specific and changing learning programs. Examples include a solar car program delivered from within science areas, an integrated astronomical observatory delivered by the school on top of the new science building, and the senior student managed informal study usage of the enclosed covered area at the heart of the school. The project required a site wide strategy to re-build a large proportion of the existing school while still occupied. The approach has been to develop a clear, new structure for the entire precinct while staying true to an existing democratic, Australian 1970s Perth suburban vernacular. Design decisions were consistently tested to provide clarity of core concepts including:

- A strong and clear structure across the entire precinct.
- A statement to the wider community reflecting high academic aspirations.
- Respect and celebration of the existing suburban character and materiality.
- Sparks of animation, texture, colour and activity to key locations to reinforce the master-plan.
- Re-life existing facilities and blur their interface with new buildings.

#### FACTS / FIGURES:

Gross Floor Area	16,486m <sup>2</sup>
Final Contract Sum	\$53.412m (ex GST)
Cost per m <sup>2</sup>	\$1,854/m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Building Completion</b>	November 2016

Photographer: Douglas Mark Black

# **WILLETTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

