

CASE STUDY

Kingston Heath Primary School Upgrade & Modernisation

LOCATION: Cheltenham, Victoria
CLIENT: Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) of the Department of Education
DATE: July 2024 - January 2025



Overview

GRA Networks Australia has successfully delivered an extensive refurbishment of Kingston Heath Primary School in Cheltenham over a six-month contract period.

This \$4.25m significant multi-disciplinary upgrade of one of Victoria's earliest purpose-built open-plan schools, has transformed Learning Centres LC02 and LC03 and the school's surrounding landscapes into state-of-the-art educational environments.

Originally designed and built by AV Jennings in the mid-1970s, the school had remained largely unchanged until this modernisation project.

GRA Networks Australia has successfully delivered modern, engaging, and inspiring spaces for students and staff, fostering a more dynamic and collaborative learning environment.

This major infrastructure improvement project was completed on time, with a strong commitment to safety, quality and collaboration.

Project Scope

- ① Structural enhancements:
 - Demolition of several building envelopes to improve visibility and functionality of the central courtyard.
 - New entry airlocks for improved accessibility.
 - Installation of underground cable service and drainage trench routes.
- ① Modernisation of facilities:
 - Replacement of all external windows, doors, roofing and rainwater goods.
 - Relocation of the cleaner's store as part of early works.
 - Reinstatement of covered outdoor walkways to complement reconfigured entries.
- ① Extensive refurbishment:
 - Learning Centres (LC02 & LC03 - 450m² each) fully upgraded to create interconnected classrooms, quiet spaces, a central informal learning hub and dedicated staff areas.
- ① Flooring & ceiling enhancements:
 - Installation of durable, low-maintenance vinyl and carpeted flooring to enhance comfort and noise reduction.
 - Modern suspended ceilings with integrated LED lighting for optimal illumination and energy efficiency.
- ① Custom joinery & storage solutions:
 - Built-in shelving, bookcases, and lockable storage units to keep learning resources organized.
 - Custom-designed teacher workstations and student cubbies for a clutter-free environment.
- ① Acoustic & noise control:
 - Installation of sound-absorbing panels and partitions to minimize noise disruptions.
 - Soft furnishings and wall treatments to improve acoustics and concentration levels.
- ① Electrical upgrades:
 - Replacement of the main electrical distribution board.
 - Replacement of wiring and completion of circuit upgrades.
 - Upgrading power outlets including new sockets and USB charging points in classrooms and common areas.
- Replacement of lighting with energy-efficient LED fixtures including motion-sensor lighting in classrooms, corridors, and bathrooms.
- Provision of emergency lighting and exit signage.
- ① Fire alarm and emergency systems:
 - Upgrading the fire alarm system to a modern addressable system.
 - Installing new smoke detectors, heat sensors, and fire alarms throughout.
 - Integration with emergency lighting and auto-door release mechanisms.
- ① ICT and AV infrastructure:
 - Installing structured cabling (Cat 6/Cat 7) for high-speed networking.
 - Provision of Wi-Fi access points throughout the school.
 - New interactive whiteboards, projectors, and sound systems.
- ① Hearing augmentation:
 - Installation of a hearing augmentation system in classrooms.
- ① Mechanical and HVAC upgrades:
 - Replacing outdated pipework and installing pressure-reducing valves.
 - Installing water-efficient fixtures, touchless taps, and dual-flush toilets.
 - Installing and upgrading air conditioning in ICT rooms, staff rooms, and other high-heat areas.
 - Implementing passive cooling solutions such as shading, natural ventilation, and heat-reflective materials.
- ① Landscaping & outdoor Improvements:
 - Creation of a new landscaped gathering space in the central courtyard.
 - Enhanced outdoor pavements and lighting.
 - Upgraded functionality of surrounding landscapes, improving both aesthetics and usability.

About us

GRA Networks Australia offer infrastructure contracting services on a design and construct basis.

We operate in the built environment, working on multi-disciplinary projects to meet the needs of our clients and provide cost-effective solutions to complex problems.

Led by experienced professionals with in-depth knowledge of these sectors and supported by skilled and dedicated in house teams, we offer a fully integrated solution, allowing us to provide clients with a unique turnkey offering that is value adding.

This inclusive approach allows our clients to benefit from expertise in several sectors and ensures they receive the most appropriate advice and solution for their schemes.

With a skilled, multi-disciplinary workforce providing a broad range of services and operating in tandem with a highly experienced management team, GRA Networks Australia is geared to meet our clients exacting demands.

Bespoke solutions for individual client requirements are central to GRA Networks Australia's offering.

We offer a fully planned and managed design and construct service, which includes materials procurement and logistics management.