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CATHOLIC CHURCH CONTINUES EDUCATION TRADITION ON HERITAGE LISTED SITE

In 2015 the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba acquired the site of the former Toowoomba South State School with the intention of developing the site as a central location for the Catholic Schools Office in Toowoomba. The land's proximity to existing church buildings (St Patrick's Cathedral and St Saviour's Primary School and College) made it a logical investment for the Diocese.

The location of the Catholic Schools Office at this site will result in efficiencies in administration for the Diocese in its activities in the city and the region. It will also mean that the use of the site will continue to be for educational purposes, consistent with its long history as a Queensland State School.

Development approval has been received from Toowoomba Regional Council for work to add to the facilities on the site. Close collaboration with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has occurred under the guidance of Urbis Heritage Consultant Scott Richards to ensure that heritage values are protected. The Diocese has appointed Lester Ehrlich of ELIA Architecture to undertake the design and coordination of the project.

This exciting development for the Catholic Church seeks to conserve the cultural significance of the Toowoomba South State School buildings, which are a prominent landmark on James Street. The main school building built in the 1930s, the open-air annexe and the play shed will be retained and reused as part of the development.

The finalisation of the project will see the completion of a years' long quest to find a single home for the Catholic Schools Office, which for several decades, has been located in several sites throughout the city of Toowoomba.

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