



# NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WHITLAM CRANE NAMING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LISTENING REPORT

## BACKGROUND

The ACT Government is delivering a new public primary school in Whitlam to meet the needs of one of Canberra's fastest-growing communities. The school will feature modern, sustainable learning spaces for 780 students, along with high-quality sports facilities and community spaces and co-located Early Childhood Education Care centre.

A 31-metre-tall tower crane arrived on the site in late January 2026 to support construction and will remain on site until late 2026. Crane naming engagements are common practice on ACT Government construction projects and present an opportunity to build a sense of connection between projects and their community whilst promoting exciting construction milestones.

Giving cranes names is also a helpful way for construction teams to identify equipment and a great chance to introduce young people to the world of building and engineering.

## ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

A crane naming competition for the new primary school in Whitlam opened in November 2025 and closed 18 December 2025.

The competition challenged ACT Public School students to suggest names that capture the suburb of Whitlam, incorporating themes of the Brindabellas, the local wildlife and the colours of the sky as the sun sets on the western horizon. Creativity and humour were also important criteria for successful names.

All finalists would receive a LEGO prize and certificate, with the winner invited on-site to receive their award and see their crane's name raised on a flag.

## WHO WE ENGAGED

The competition was open to all ACT Public Primary Schools students.

## HOW WE ENGAGED

A competition entry form, outlining the engagement terms and submission process was sent out to all ACT Public Primary Schools through the ACT Education Directorate school news bulletin channel.

The forms were distributed to primary school students via their teachers for completion in class or to take home. Submissions were sent to Infrastructure Canberra by teachers and parents of participating students.



## ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Infrastructure Canberra received a total of 72 name submissions from 7 different ACT Public Primary Schools. Several different themes were represented across all submissions including First Nations, the sun and sunset, local wildlife and plants as well as construction and building materials.

Once the competition closed, a selection panel, composed of ACT Education Directorate representatives, shortlisted five names. The winning name, 'Principal Lifterson', was endorsed by Minister for Education, Yvette Berry and printed on a large crane flag.

The winning student from Telopea Park School participated in a flag-hoisting ceremony on Friday 13 February 2026 and received an award from ACT Education Minister Yvette Berry. The four shortlisted entries had their runner-up prizes and certificates presented to them at their respective school assemblies.

The crane naming engagement was enjoyed by participating students, teachers, parents and project delivery partners who acknowledged the positive impact that the project is already having on the community.

	Name	School	Description
<b>Winner</b>	Principal Lifterson	Telopea Park School	Principal Lifterson as the crane will be the boss of the Whitlam primary school while it is being built
<b>Shortlisted</b>	Craney McCrane Face	Evelyn Scott School	Craney McCrane Face because it is funny
<b>Shortlisted</b>	Nengi Bamir	Mt Rogers Primary School	Nengi Bamir - this means 'see far' in Ngunnawal because the view from a crane allows you to see far but also because young people are our future and see the possibilities.
<b>Shortlisted</b>	Bayreform	Throsby School	Bayreform. The B is for Brindabellas. A is for animals. R is for rivers. Y is for the yellow sun setting and 'Form is like forming new buildings
<b>Shortlisted</b>	Sunset Soarer	Fadden Primary	Because it looks like a high flying drone that picks up stuff

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The tower crane at the new primary school in Whitlam site will be decommissioned in late-2026. At this time, the winning student will be invited back on site to lower the 'Principal Lifterson' flag and to say goodbye to the crane.