

# Promat

Case Study

# Hymba Yumba Independent School, Springfield, Qld

**ARCHITECT:** Deicke Richards **INSTALLER:** Xclusive Interiors

**PRODUCT:** PROMATECT® XS 2nd Generation





## Background

Nestled in the heart of Springfield in Brisbane's West, the Hymba Yumba Independent School is more than just an educational institution. With a name that means 'listening and learning place' in the Bidjara language, this hub is a wonderful example of culturally responsive architecture that carefully reflects its community to inspire, empower and echo the wisdoms and traditions of the Yuggera people.

Deicke Richards, an interdisciplinary architecture and design studio with a passion for social impact, honoured the significance of this project by envisioning a space that embodies the essence of "learning on country." As such, the Stage 3 of the master plan – with its pronounced emphasis on the arts – aims to create an environment where Indigenous knowledge and creative expression flow freely. Scheduled for completion in late 2024, the building itself is a stunning embodiment of this vision, with the striking performance hall perched atop the structure as a beacon of inspiration for the school's young artists.

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## Challenge

Naturally, bringing this community-led architectural vision to life was no small feat. The limited site footprint demanded creative solutions to help accommodate a growing student body of 350, and navigating construction logistics in such a confined space posed additional challenges.

The construction of the cantilevered performance hall floating above the learning spaces added a layer of complexity. This ambitious design required a structural solution that was not just robust and fire-resistant, but also lightweight enough to support the architectural expression.



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## Solution

Steel with a fire-rated board proved to be the optimal choice, offering both structural integrity and fire protection, and PROMATECT® XS 2nd Generation truly unlocked the project's potential.

Promat's ground-breaking fire protective board boasts exceptional performance and fire resistance, thanks to the incorporation of advanced PromaX technology. Tailored specifically for safeguarding structural steelwork, the specified product combines effective fire protection with unparalleled ease of installation, high-quality finishes and enhanced resistance to mould and moisture – critical in Queensland's hot, humid climate.

In this case, Promat's signature solution ensured exceptional fire protection in a remarkably slim 25mm profile, which eliminated the need for bulkier coated systems, and their associated growth factor, preserved valuable space and helped bring the cantilevered design to life.

"PROMATECT® XS has exceeded our expectations," enthuses Luke Watson, Principal at Deicke Richards. "The project support from Promat has enabled the more difficult part of the project with various fire rating requirements and challenges to be executed with very little difficulty on site."

PROMATECT® XS' ease of installation further contributed to the efficiency of the project, allowing

the construction team to navigate the tight site with greater flexibility. "At first, we were sceptical of using a new system as we are used to installing plasterboard on structural steel," admits Joshua Schauer, Director of Xclusive Interiors, the installers of the Promat product. However, it quickly turned out that the team had nothing to worry about. "Using PROMATECT® XS was fast and easy as there was no framing required," he explains. "The board is edge fixed with a staple gun. The entire steel structure was fire-rated in a matter of weeks. Using a single layer solution was great rather than multiple layers of plasterboard."

Plus, PROMATECT® XS' ability to remain exposed during construction streamlined the building process, minimising delays and disruptions. "The fact that it's water resistant was a bonus, as we had rain onsite for most of the install," Josh adds. "We will be using PROMATECT® XS again."

Rising proudly, Hymba Yumba is more than just a school – it's a vibrant cultural heart and a testament to the resilience and beauty of Indigenous knowledge. It is also a powerful example of commitment to culturally responsive and community-led design that employs innovative solutions to create a living embodiment of the Bidjara phrase this structure is named after – a place of listening, learning, and boundless potential.