



Bungendore High School

Project update | June 2023

Project overview

Bungendore High School opened on Day 1 Term 1 2023 in purpose built temporary facilities located at Bungendore Public School. The new permanent high school within the Majara / Gibraltar Streets Precinct will be delivered as soon as possible.

Enabling works for the new permanent high school have begun. The permanent high school will have modern facilities, with 24 flexible learning spaces to accommodate approximately 450 students. It will deliver a library, multi-purpose hall, canteen, sports courts and an agricultural plot.

Bungendore Public School will also receive upgrades, including new teaching spaces, upgrades to the existing playing field and a new amenities block.

Progress update

Enabling works have prepared the site for construction, with construction fencing erected, the site compound established and site services investigations completed.

We have listened to the community feedback about the importance of maintaining access to the existing Bungendore swimming pool while the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) builds the new sports hub. We are currently working through changes to our plans to allow the pool to be operational for the 2023/24 swimming season.

In response to Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council's request, we have also extended the lease to the Bungendore Community Centre to 30 September 2023 and the Council Offices to 31 July 2023.

The department is working to deliver the high school at its permanent site as soon as possible. Court proceedings have been initiated by a local community group challenging the validity of the State Significant Development Consent for the school. It is anticipated the main works contract will be awarded after the outcome of the court hearing scheduled for 17 July 2023.

The Environmental Protection Agency has found significant contamination in the railway corridor adjoining the permanent high school site. The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority. A detailed site investigation was conducted on the proposed school site by an independent consultant in July 2022. The investigation found lead contamination identified in the railway corridor is not impacting the school site and "that the site is suitable, from a contamination perspective, for the proposed development at the site."

The testing program included locations inside and outside of Bungendore Public School, the site for the temporary high school, the site for the new agricultural plot for the high school and the site for the new Bungendore High School. The detailed site investigation (contamination) was submitted as part of the state significant development application and is publicly available on the Department of Planning and Environment planning portal here:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/new-high-school-bungendore>

There are strict protocols in place to identify and remediate unexpected finds of contamination on all School Infrastructure NSW projects. These protocols will be followed during construction of the high school.

How sites are selected for new schools

Each new school site proposed brings with it a range of risks, opportunities and constraints. The suitability of any site for new or extended school infrastructure is assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure the requirements of the school development can be met appropriately.

In selecting the site for Bungendore High School the department undertook a site selection process in line with criteria that ensures sites for new schools are suitable. This included an expression of interest with landowners and consultation with Council.

The site for the new school at Majara Street was selected due to its close proximity to the existing Bungendore Public School and will provide the community with modern educational facilities in an accessible location in the centre of town.

All alternative sites were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons including the availability of essential infrastructure and environmental constraints such as flooding and ecological concerns.

More information about site selection is available here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/efsg/design-framework/site-selection-guidelines>

Join the mailing list to continue to be updated about Bungendore High School

To ensure that the current and future Bungendore High School community receives updates about the school we will be distributing our project updates, works notifications and other communications electronically in the future.

If you are an adjoining neighbour of Bungendore High School you will still receive printed materials, but otherwise please sign up to our mailing list if you would like to receive these updates in your inbox when they are published online.

You can sign up through the QR code (right) or at edu.nsw.link/BHSupdates

You can always find information on the Bungendore High School project page: <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/n/new-high-school-in-bungendore.html>

We look forward to continuing to share information with you as the project progresses.



Scan the QR code above to sign up to the mailing list

