



Artist impression of the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education

# Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education

Project update | August 2021

## Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 215 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

The NSW Department of Education is committed to delivering new and upgraded schools for communities across NSW. The delivery of these important projects is essential to the future learning needs of our students and supports growth in the local economy.

## Project overview

Design is underway for Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education co-located at the Western Sydney University Hawkesbury campus. The Centre of Excellence – Richmond Agricultural College will be used as a state-wide resource delivering world class agricultural and science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

The project will deliver:

- Three academic blocks (Blocks B, C and D)
- Short-term accommodation facilities
- Dining hall, conference space and canteen
- Administrative building
- Student and staff amenities
- Covered Outdoor Learning Areas
- Green House
- Agricultural sheds, plots and facilities
- Landscaping
- General and staff car parking facilities
- Bicycle storage.

## For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

## **Progress Summary**

The project has received approval to proceed and the master planning and concept design phases are now complete. A Very Early Contractor Involvement (VECI) has been engaged and the schematic design phase is in progress. Throughout the project design phases, feedback has been sought from project stakeholders, the local community, representatives from the new school and incorporated, where appropriate, into the design.

Site investigations have been completed to inform the development of the schematic design. The project team are working closely with the school and Western Sydney University to discuss development impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) has been received. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) has been prepared and the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) has been lodged.

## **Next Steps**

Designs will be endorsed by the Project Control Group (PCG), a project governance group made up of the project team and key school representatives, including the Principal.

## **Have your say**

### **What is a State Significant Development Application?**

State Significant Development (SSD) applications are used for projects that have special significance to the people and State of NSW. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is responsible for the planning approval process for SSD applications, rather than a local council.

### **How can I find out more about the SSDA for the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education?**

You can find detailed information about the SSD application by going to the DPIE's website:  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41346>.

### **How can I provide feedback on the SSD application?**

Make a formal submission before insert date. Follow the 'Make a Submission' link at:  
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41346> All feedback on the SSD should be directed to DPIE via this link.

## **Virtual Information session**

From 9:00am Tuesday 7 September 2021 to 9:00am Monday 13 September 2021, we will be holding a Virtual Information Session where you can find out more about the progress of this project.

Visit the [SINSW website](#) at any time, day or night during this period to access the Virtual Information Session.



### **For more information contact:**

School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)