



An example of flexible a learning space

# Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education

## Project update | December 2022

### Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$8.6 billion in school infrastructure over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver 160 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This builds on the more than \$9.1 billion invested in projects delivered since 2017, a program of \$17.7 billion in public education infrastructure.

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

A project is underway for the 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:

- 5 science labs
- 10 general learning spaces
- 5 practical activity teaching areas
- covered outdoor learning areas
- dining hall, conference space and canteen
- administrative building
- general and staff parking facilities
- short-term accommodation facilities
- green house
- agricultural sheds, plots and facilities
- landscaping
- bicycle storage

## Progress summary

The construction of the new Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education has been impacted due to the heavy rainfall and flooding experienced in NSW and parts of Western Sydney this year. The rainfall has resulted in groundwater being trapped below the land surface of the school site. We have conducted site investigations to inform the best way to manage drainage of the groundwater and we are reviewing the results.

The Centre of Excellence will continue to operate at the TAFE Richmond facilities in 2023. AgSTEM students will continue to undertake their secondary education at the Centre three days per week and will attend Richmond High School two days per week.

## Next steps

Following the site investigations, we will explore the best path forward and update the community as the project progresses.

## How can I get involved?

We are committed to working together with our school communities and other stakeholders to deliver the best possible learning facilities for students. Your feedback on this project is important to us.

For more information, questions, or to make a comment, please contact us on the below details or visit the project webpage by searching “[Centre of Excellence in agricultural education](#)” on [schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au).

We will provide regular progress updates to the community and will publish these on the project webpage.

