

Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education

Information pack | September 2021



Artist impression of Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, entry plaza

The NSW Government is investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years 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.

We are in the process of designing a new Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education. The new Centre will deliver:



3 academic buildings



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

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, local community and 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

To find detailed information about the SSD application and to make a submission, please visit www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41346. All feedback on the SSD should be directed to DPIE via this link.



Frequently asked questions

What does the project involve?

We are designing a brand new Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, co-located at the Western Sydney University Hawkesbury campus. The project will deliver:

- Three academic buildings (Block 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

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. A SSD application for the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education has now been lodged and is available for comment. Follow the 'Make a Submission' link at: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41346.

How have the school community been involved in the project so far?

A Project Control Group (PCG) has been operating since the project's early planning phase; a project governance group made up of the project team, the Principal of the new school and various subject matter experts. The PCG provides key information from an operational, educational, change and logistics perspective into the planning through the design phase of the project.

How will the project be sustainable?

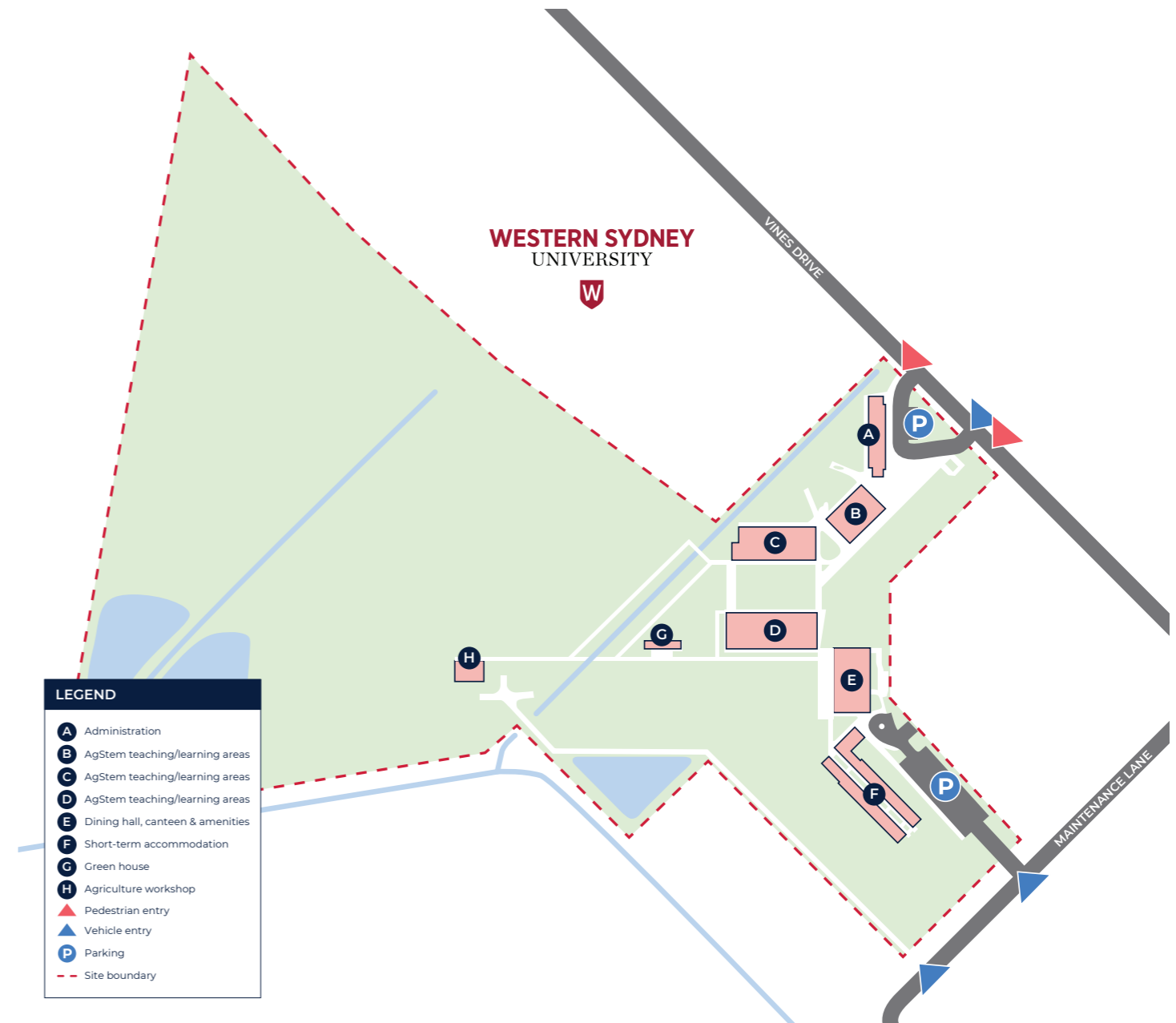
We acknowledge the importance of sustainability in the construction and operation of new schools and facilities. We will be targeting 4 Star Green Star accreditation for this project which is a Green Building Council of Australia certification that rates how sustainable a facility is.

When will construction start?

Pending approval of the SSD application, construction is likely to start early 2022.

How will the community be kept safe during construction?

The safety of the school and the local community is our highest priority. Throughout the entire construction period rigorous safety and security measures will be put in place. There will be regular consultation with the school to discuss construction progress.



Proposed site plan of Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education



Artist impression of Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, Aboriginal enterprise



Artist impression of Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, accommodation

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 email us at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 482 651.

Stay informed



Website

Stay up to date by visiting the School Infrastructure NSW website schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Phone

Contact us between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**