

Hunter River High School

Summer holidays works notification | December 2022

Archaeological investigations (test pits)

A project is underway to upgrade Hunter River High School to cater to future enrolment demand in Heatherbrae and provide its students with the latest educational facilities.

During the 2022 summer school holidays, consultants will be onsite conducting testing and environmental investigative works.

We will be undertaking archaeological investigation works at the school from Monday 9 January 2023 to Wednesday 25 January 2023 as part of a required Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).

This work will involve digging and refilling test pits across the school site. We anticipate the excavation work will take up to ten days to complete but it may take longer if any objects of interest are found.

Where possible, pits will be dug using non-destructive methods (for example, by hand using shovels). In some cases, excavating machinery may need to be used for short periods of time – not in excess of two hours per day.

The test pits will be dug by a team of archaeologists with monitoring by representatives of the local Aboriginal community. There will be no change to vehicle or pedestrian access as a result of the work.

Further site investigations

Following the archaeological investigations, further site investigations will take place to test site ground conditions. This testing is required to help inform design and location of the new facilities.

The testing includes soil sampling from different investigation areas.

The investigations will be undertaken in accordance with SafeWork NSW regulations and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures will be in place including air monitoring and workers in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

All work will be completed by licensed and accredited contractors, and monitored by occupational hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Work hours

All work will be carried out during standard construction hours which are Monday to Friday 7:00am to 6:00pm.

We are here to make sure that work is completed safely and efficiently, and we will minimise impacts on the community at every opportunity. We have scheduled works during the holiday period to reduce disruption to teaching and learning.



Contact us

If you have any queries or concerns about this project you can contact School Infrastructure NSW by email at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or during business hours on 1300 482 651.

School Infrastructure NSW will be closed from 5pm Friday 23 December 2022 to 9am Monday 9 January 2023, inclusive, in line with the NSW Government shut down period. During this time, if there is an urgent issue, please contact the site manager listed on the construction site entry. In an emergency, please call triple zero (000).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an ACHAR?

In NSW any organisation that is proposing to carry out work which has the potential to harm an Aboriginal object or a declared Aboriginal place is legally required to carry out an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) to determine, investigate, assess and report on any impacts that may be caused by the work. The ACHAR process includes liaison with representatives of the local Aboriginal community and archaeological work to identify objects or materials of cultural significance within the project area. The ACHAR will form part of the development application.

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