

# Hunter River High School

## Summer holidays works notification | April 2023

A project is underway to upgrade Hunter River High School to provide its students with the latest educational facilities.

During the April school holidays between Friday 7 April and Sunday 23 April 2023, consultants will be onsite conducting a range of investigative works to inform planning and design.

### Archaeological investigations (test pits)

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.

The archaeological investigations 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.

The test pits will be dug by a team of archaeologists with monitoring by representatives of the local Aboriginal community.

### Further site investigations

Further site investigations including soil sampling will also take place to test site ground conditions. This due diligence testing is required to help inform design and location of the new facilities.

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 have scheduled works during the holiday period to reduce disruption to teaching and learning.

