

Kingscliff Public School

Works notification

26 October 2020

Kingscliff Public School is being upgraded to provide new permanent teaching spaces and core facilities to cater for growth in the area. Early works are underway at the school to upgrade the existing hall and provide a new student canteen. A request for tenders has been issued for the main works and we are working through the required statutory planning processes for the project.

Upcoming excavation work

From Monday 2 November 2020 we will be undertaking archaeological investigation works at the school as part of a required Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA).

This work will involve digging and refilling approximately 25-30 small test pits across the school site. Excavation work is anticipated to take five days to complete but may take longer if any objects of interest are found. Work will take place between 7:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Where possible pits will be dug by hand using shovels, however in some cases excavating machinery may need to be used for short periods of time – not in excess of two hours per day.

Test areas will be cordoned off during digging to ensure student and public safety.

The test pits will be dug by a team of archaeologists with monitoring by representatives of the local Aboriginal community. Our site manager will work closely with the school principal to minimise disruption to school operations. There will be no change to vehicle or pedestrian access as a result of the work.

Continuing work on existing hall

During the same period work will continue to extend the existing hall and provide a new student canteen. This will include installation of ceiling sheets, painting, flooring, electrical works, and services fit out. This work will take place between 7:00am and 6:00pm, Monday to Friday and 8:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays.

We are here to make sure that work is completed safely and efficiently and we will minimise impacts on the community at every opportunity.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Frequently asked questions

What is an ACHA?

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 (ACHA) to determine, investigate, assess and report on any impacts that may be caused by the work. The ACHA 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 ACHA report will form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project which is required for planning approval and will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment as part of the State Significant Development (SSD) application.

What are the test pits for?

In many cases, objects or materials of cultural significance are buried underground. The ACHA process involves examining the current surface of the project area, but also undertaking careful excavations to identify what is in the under-lying soil. Digging a large number of test pits in a systematic grid across the site allows us to identify with more confidence areas where Aboriginal objects or materials may or may not be present.

Where will the test pits be dug?

Test pits will be dug approximately 20 metres apart across the school site as shown below (blue dots indicate expected test pit locations). This is proposed by the archaeologist consultant, and the final number and location of test pits will be determined once an on-site review provides a greater understanding of the area. In most cases the pits will be 50 centimetres long by 50 centimetres wide and 1 metre deep although the size may be expanded where additional investigation is needed.

