



Artist impression of new high school in Bungendore. Indicative only.

# A new high school in Bungendore

## Project Update

October 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.

### Progress summary

The Response to Submissions (RtS) and Amendment Report required as part of the State Significant Development (SSD) approval process were on exhibition for 21 days and closed on 10 October 2022. More than 200 submissions were received in response to the updated design. We thank the community and other stakeholders for taking the time to make a submission.

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) will again respond to these submissions in a report to be lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).

We thank the Bungendore community and other stakeholders for their feedback and input throughout the development of the high school project. This input has shaped the design of the school and SINSW will share any further changes in response to the latest feedback.

### Information Sessions at Bungendore Public School

SINSW held two information sessions and other stakeholder briefings in September to update the community about the project and also answer questions.

Nearly 70 people attended the information sessions and a range of views and topics were discussed.

Topics included but were not limited to the location of the new high school, local traffic and parking, use of Mick Sherd Oval, school capacity, timeframe for the construction of the high school, the future of the Bungendore pool, and the proximity of the Bungendore and District War Memorial.

### For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Phone: 1300 482 651  
[www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

We acknowledge the views of all members of the community and understand the overwhelming support for a new high school in Bungendore. We also acknowledge the views of local residents who do not support the site that has been selected for the new high school. This was the topic most raised in discussions about the new high school.

### **Clarifying the site selection process**

In 2019, investigations of local and state government lands was undertaken for a suitable site for the high school. In late 2019, SINSW also engaged Property NSW to undertake a public expression of interest (EOI) process of privately held lands to identify suitable land opportunities for the new high school. As part of the investigation for a suitable site, many were deemed not suitable due to a combination of reasons including flooding, connectivity to the town, ecological constraints, bushfire constraints, zoning and lack of utilities. Bungendore Park was considered but dismissed as unsuitable.

The preferred site at the Majara Street Precinct was then identified as an option following discussions with Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council (QPRC). This site comprised the QPRC administration building, part of Majara Street and small section of Bungendore Park, and was not previously considered during earlier investigations.

The Precinct site presented many benefits, including, but not limited to: a central location, access to existing utilities and services, not being affected by flooding or ecological constraints, and the ability to provide facilities for joint community use in the centre of town.

In particular, the Precinct site's direct proximity to Bungendore Public School presented the opportunity to provide enhanced pedagogical opportunities and co-sharing facilities across the two schools.

The Precinct site also provided the best opportunity to deliver a new high school for the community because the other sites would not have realised the many benefits of the Precinct Site, as well as requiring a significantly prolonged planning process in excess of that required for the preferred Precinct site.

### **Temporary High School at Bungendore Public School**

Work continues on the temporary high school which will be located on the public school playing field. The temporary school will be installed from early Term 4 2022 and be ready to accept Years 7 and 8 for Day 1 Term 1 2023.

During site due diligence and preparation, the Department has undertaken additional testing on the playing field of the Public School, before starting installation work for the temporary high school. Eighteen boreholes were used for testing and this included for lead, other metals and asbestos.

SINSW engaged an independent expert, whose principal environmental scientist confirmed that testing at the playing field at Bungendore Public School indicates that lead concentrations were well below the Tier 1 criteria for the protection of human health for Primary Schools as outlined in the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999.

They further advise that no indications of contamination, that may have resulted from the activities associated with the train line, were detected on the site. There was also no asbestos detected, and metal concentrations recorded were indicative of the natural background metal concentrations for the soil and rocks in the Bungendore region.

We can confirm that the site is suitable for use as both a playing field for students and also to undertake construction work for the temporary high school. SINSW has strict protocols in place to address and manage contamination when it is found on any of our projects and this same diligence will apply at Bungendore.



For more information on Bungendore High School scan the QR code.

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