

Newcastle Education Campus

Information pack | September 2022



Artist impression of Newcastle Education Campus multi-purpose hall

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.

Included in this program is the Newcastle Education Campus (NEC). Located on the main Newcastle High School site, the NEC will cater for the growing population in the region by delivering:



Modern flexible learning spaces for up to **1,420** students



37 new permanent learning spaces and **5** new support learning spaces



New library, canteen and science laboratories



New multi-purpose sports and performance hall

Project overview

This project will apply for planning approval through the State Significant Development (SSD) application process to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). The SSD application is currently being prepared and will be lodged in late 2022.

We invite community feedback prior to submitting the SSD application.

The final business case for this project was approved by NSW Treasury in June 2022. This key milestone means that the project has funding for the construction phase, pending approval of the SSD application.

Student learning will continue at Newcastle High School while the new facilities are being built.

The new facilities will include:

- a new 3 storey learning hub which includes a new library, canteen and covered outdoor learning area (COLA), support learning unit, general learning spaces, hospitality teaching spaces and science labs
- a new multi-purpose facility with gymnasium, stage, fitness lab, flexible learning spaces, outdoor courts and end of trip facilities
- a new student hub within Building A and student entry from Parkway Avenue
- retention of key heritage buildings on site.



Artist impression of new sports courts with multi-purpose facility in the background

Design priorities

The design has considered existing heritage features while maximising connectivity and accessibility throughout the campus site. The design seeks to retain as many mature trees as possible while providing for the needs of a modern high school and respecting the privacy of neighbours.

The design was developed in consultation with Department of Education and Newcastle High School leadership representatives, architects, planners, consultants and the department’s technical stakeholder group.

The project has four major design phases: masterplanning, concept design, schematic design and detailed design.

Key design considerations include:

- Retention of heritage buildings and sympathetic design of new buildings.
- Planning to allow flexibility for future growth.
- Open space and enhancement of the existing landscape.
- Standard and best practice design principles including the department’s Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG).
- Connection with Country and a design that reflects and celebrates Aboriginal heritage.
- Reinforcing a relationship with the community.

Site layout



The school designs may change as part of ongoing design development

Heritage considerations

Newcastle, and in particular the grounds of Newcastle High School, has a strong heritage tradition that reflects the strength and diversity of the community. We are aware of the significance of the heritage buildings and the conservation areas that surround them, and are committed to respecting the history and maintaining the heritage of the site and surrounds.

Several of the existing school buildings being retained as part of this project have heritage significance. These include Buildings A and L, which were originally part of Newcastle Girls High School (circa 1928/29), and Building C, which was the former Newcastle Central Domestic Science School (circa 1930/31).



Former Newcastle Central Domestic Science School (circa 1930/31) being retained as part of this project

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Awabakal people. Our Connection with Country workshops have identified several ways we can incorporate design elements that celebrates their rich history while supporting Aboriginal students. These include exploring opportunities to apply Indigenous images on new facility walls, incorporating endemic planting, Indigenous foods and medicinal plants, including gathering spaces throughout the campus to provide opportunities for Indigenous learning, and installing a sunshade screen provides a visual interpretation of local Aboriginal stories, particularly of the Saltwater people.

School entry points

The project includes a new entry on Parkway Avenue located between the existing school entry (Building A) and the new learning hub. This new student entry will be adjacent to the bus stop and drop-off zone, and will include improved internal pathway connections.

Design also includes a second entry/drop-off zone off National Park Street near Dumaresq Street for students with mobility issues only. We have already met with the City of Newcastle and the transport planner to discuss these entry points, and will continue to discuss the best possible options with subject matter experts.

The SSD application

The State Significant Development (SSD) application is being prepared for lodgement with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). SSD applications are used for projects that have special significance to the people and State of NSW and the DPE are responsible for the planning approval process of these projects, rather than local council.

As part of the SSD application, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared. The EIS contains technical studies to consider matters such as traffic, noise, operations, ecology, bushfire and construction management. We have already started mine subsidence investigations and consulted with the Subsidence Advisory.

Technical studies being undertaken as part of the SSD application include:

- Design Analysis
- Traffic and Transport
- Social Impact Analysis
- Noise and Vibration
- Aboriginal Assessment
- Ecological Sustainable Development
- Construction Management
- Hydraulic
- Contamination
- Waste Management
- Stormwater Management
- Accessibility Assessment.

Once lodged, the SSD application will be on exhibition to the public for 28 days.



Internal view of the new multi-purpose facility

Next steps

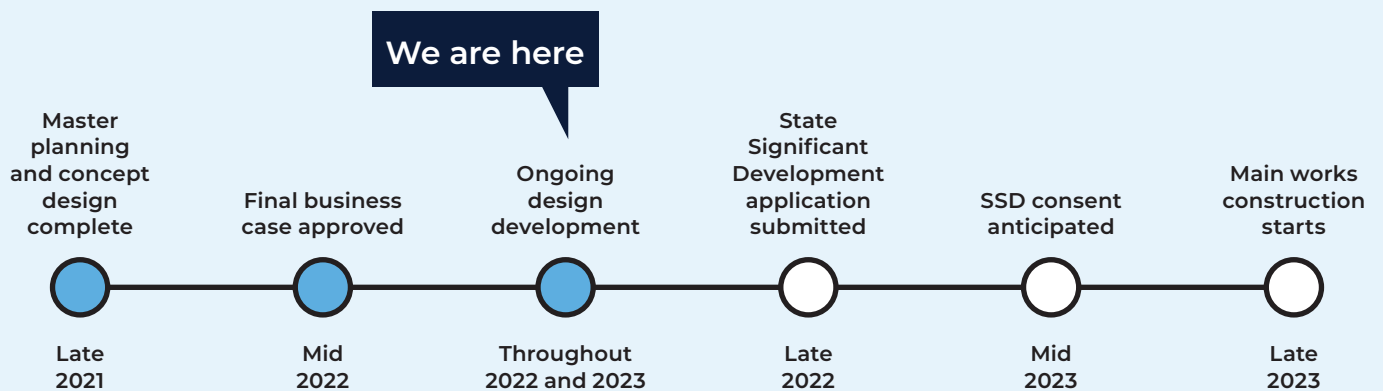
The EIS will be finalised. This includes further technical studies that involve research, site investigations, surveys and assessments, data analysis, and community and stakeholder consultation and can be viewed when the SSD application is placed on public exhibition in the coming months.

We will continue to consult with the City of Newcastle, Transport for NSW and other key stakeholders as we carry out the technical studies, detailed site investigations and design development.



New school entry and learning hub from Parkway Avenue

Timeline





Internal courtyard in the new learning hub

Frequently asked questions

How was the concept design developed?

The concept design was developed by looking at the needs of the school based on the spatial requirements, data, site constraints and Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines. This is done in consultation with experts and key stakeholders, including the Project Reference Group.

The concept design focuses on placing buildings, learning spaces, and facilities in the right locations to meet educational and operational needs. It explores important functional requirements such as pedestrian flow and accessibility throughout the campus. Architects considered the overall layout and look and feel of the school, including the character and how it responds to the local surrounding area, taking into consideration environmental, access, transport and other planning requirements. The project scope and design will continue to evolve during future design phases as feedback from government agencies, stakeholders and the community is considered.

How does the design consider the local environment and sustainability?

The project will be targeting 5 Star Green Star accreditation, which is a Green Building Council of Australia certification that rates the sustainability of the facility. This includes provision of solar panels, water tanks, use of sustainable materials and efficient fixtures and fittings.

The design of the school has considered existing trees on site and aims to retain as many trees as possible while providing the needs of a modern high school. An ecology report and landscape design will be prepared and submitted with the SSD application for the project.

How will traffic and transport be managed?

We identify and review transport impacts early in the planning process and collaborate with state, local and school stakeholders to put in place appropriate traffic management.

A preliminary transport assessment was undertaken in the early stages of planning to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with travel to the site. A complete transport assessment is currently being completed, which will be one of several technical reports supporting the State Significant Development (SSD) application for the project.

The assessment report will also include a school transport plan to manage travel demand and inform stakeholders such as bus operators, Transport for NSW and City of Newcastle about transport requirements. Information about the new transport and access arrangements will be communicated prior to the school opening.

A range of infrastructure is proposed to support the school, including drop-off and pick-up facilities, staff car parking and bicycle and scooter parking. In addition, a review of bus zones and upgrades to existing pedestrian and road infrastructure is being considered, in consultation with City of Newcastle and Transport for NSW. These plans will be finalised and submitted as part of the SSD application.

Frequently asked questions (continued)

When will construction work begin?

Construction work can start on site after the SSD application is approved and following the tender process for a construction contractor.

How can I provide feedback on the project?

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. If you would like to provide feedback or ask questions about the project prior to the SSD submission, please contact us via email at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 482 651.

Following the lodgement of the SSD application, the project will be placed on public exhibition by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). During this time, you can provide a formal submission by using the 'Make a Submission' link on the project page of the DPE website. More information about this process: pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects.

How can I keep up to date about this project?

Updates about this project are regularly published on its webpage. You can visit the project webpage by scanning the QR code below or visiting edu.nsw.link/NewcastleEC.



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**