



Artist impression of the internal courtyard in the new learning hub

Newcastle Education Campus

Project update | February 2023

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.

Project overview

Located on the main Newcastle High School site, the Newcastle Education Campus will cater for the growing population in the region by delivering:

- 37 new permanent learning spaces
- 5 new support learning spaces
- a new library, multi-purpose facility (hall), canteen and science laboratories.

Progress summary

In November and December 2022, we conducted soil investigations on the site to identify any potential contaminated materials. The findings of these tests are being examined and the outcome will form part of the State Significant Development (SSD) application.

The SSD application is being prepared for lodgement with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Once lodged, detailed information about the project will be exhibited on the DPE planning portal where you will have the opportunity to provide feedback: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions>. We will notify the community when the application is being publicly exhibited.

As part of the SSD application, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared, which includes technical studies to consider important matters that can have an impact on the environment and community. Since November 2022 the EIS reports we have finalised are:

- soil and groundwater assessment
- traffic and transport assessment
- flood assessment and flood emergency response plans
- noise and vibration assessment
- Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment.

Next steps

For over a year we have been working through the 4 major design phases for this project: masterplanning, concept design, schematic design and detailed design. Work on the design of the Newcastle Education Campus has been progressed in consultation with the school, architects, engineers, planners, consultants, parent and citizen (P&C) representatives, the department's technical stakeholder group and other government agencies. The final design stage, detailed design, started in November 2022 and is expected to be finished in March 2023.

Additional site investigations will be undertaken in March and April 2023. These tests will involve drilling bore holes and excavation pits to test the ground conditions on the site. All work will be carried out during standard construction hours which are Monday to Friday 7am to 5 pm and Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. No work will take place on Sundays or public holidays unless notified. We will inform the community ahead of these tests taking place.

We will continue to work through the EIS studies and expect to formally lodge the SSD application in late March 2023. We will notify the community when it has been submitted and is on public exhibition.

Keep up to date about this project

In November 2022 we held a community information session at Newcastle High School to hear from members of the public about how they feel about this project. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Newcastle Education Campus we'd love to hear from you.

Stay up to date by visiting the project webpage <https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/n/newcastle-education-campus.html> or scan the QR code below.

For more information or to make a comment please email us at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 482 651 during business hours.

