

Tweed River High School

Works notification

February 2021

Tweed River High School is being upgraded to provide new permanent teaching spaces and core facilities. The scope of work includes new and refurbished learning spaces, a new library and new senior learning environment. In August 2020 the NSW Government announced new specialist vocational education facilities at Tweed River High School. This is in addition to the original school upgrade project.

Upcoming excavation work

From Monday 8 February 2021 we will be undertaking archaeological investigation works at the school as part of our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. The project has been granted an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) from Heritage NSW to complete these required investigations

The work will involve digging and refilling up to 20 small test pits across the school site, indicative locations are shown in the image overleaf. Excavation work is anticipated to take 10 - 15 days to complete and will take place between 7:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. We do not expect these works will have significant noise impacts on the school or local residents. We will work closely with the school principal to minimise disruption to school operations.

Test areas will be cordoned off during digging to ensure student and public safety. However, sieving of sediment with water may need to take place outside these areas.

The test pits will be dug by a team of archaeologists using a mechanical excavator and manually. All works will be monitored by representatives from the local Aboriginal community.

For more information contact:

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Frequently asked questions

Why is this work needed?

From earlier site investigations and due diligence work on the project, Tweed River High School has been identified as an area that may have Aboriginal cultural objects or artefacts below the ground surface. We have been granted an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) by Heritage NSW that allows us to do further archaeological investigations to identify whether artefacts of Aboriginal cultural significance are present where works are proposed.

What is an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment?

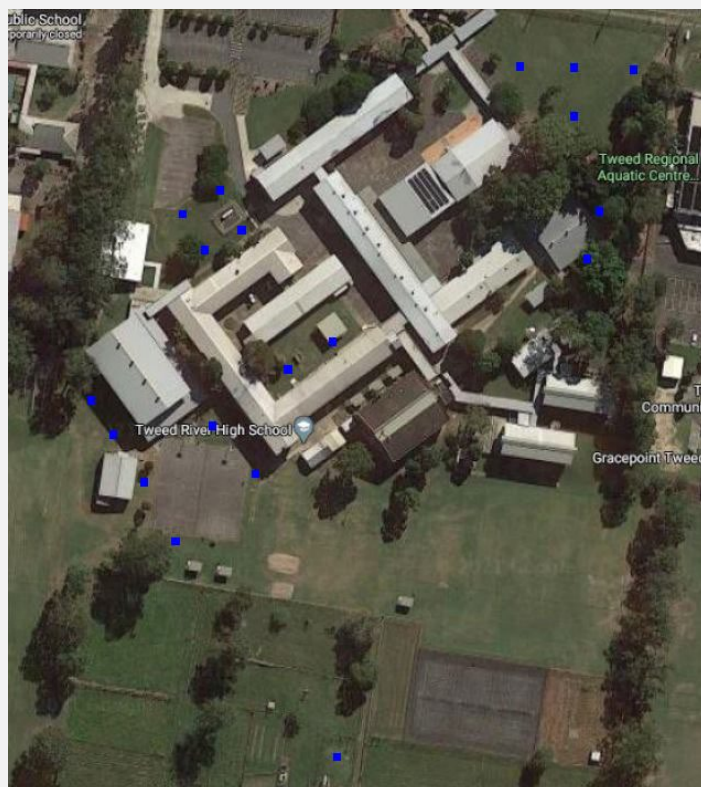
In NSW any organisation that is proposing to carry out work which has the potential to harm an Aboriginal object or a declared Aboriginal place is legally required to carry out an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) to determine, investigate, assess and report on the harm that may be caused by the work. This 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 planning application for the project.

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 in the image to the right. This may vary in some areas due to the location of buildings and hard landscaping. In most cases the pits will be 2 metres wide x 1 metre deep, although the size may be expanded where additional investigation is needed. The depth of excavation will be determined on site by the archaeological team.



Blue dots show indicative location of test pits