



Indicative artist impression of Wee Waa High School redevelopment

Wee Waa High School redevelopment

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

A project is underway to redevelop Wee Waa High School. The project will deliver new learning spaces, modern core facilities including a library and multipurpose hall, a new agricultural and environment centre, sports fields and sports courts as well as a new Indigenous Cultural Centre.

Progress update

We have established the construction zone at the site of the new school on Mitchell Street and completed the bulk earthworks and levelling of the site. We have begun digging the trenches that will hold water drainage and sewerage system as well as installing the cables that will provide services like electricity and internet to the new school, this construction phase is known as a 'groundworks'. For the agricultural site on Purcell Avenue, the demolition and construction tender has been released.

Next steps

For the Mitchell Street site, once groundworks are finished and all the foundations for the new school in place, concrete slabs will be poured throughout the site. This will be followed by the construction of the steel frames of the new buildings, connecting internal services like plumbing and electricity and begin assembling the manufactured parts of the new school.

For the agricultural site on Mitchell Street, we will be assessing tender applications and will work with the appointed contractor to develop a program of works. We will keep the community informed when more information becomes available.

The construction process: Getting the foundations right

With the groundworks almost complete, we have begun working on the new school's foundations to ensure the new structures are built on solid and well-engineered base. The foundation works include inserting screw piers which are like large metal screws that are inserted into the ground to provide a sturdy base for the buildings and build the footings at the base of the new buildings. An excavator is drilling the piers into the ground to approximately 7 metres in depth, once works to insert all piers are finished there will be approximately 650 piers inserted into the ground throughout the new school.

Footings are reinforced concrete structures that sit in trenches throughout the base of the new buildings. Footings provide the support required to balance the weight of the new buildings and prevent it from sinking.

Offsite manufacturing update

The manufacturing of walls, floors and facades of the new school has continued off site, these are currently making their way to Wee Waa, where they will be assembled by onsite contractors including local work force.

At the end of 2022, year 11 science and technology students from Wee Waa High School visited the factory and learned about how the different components are manufactured in a safe controlled setting. More information about this student visit can be found in the following link: <https://lnkd.in/gG6VUYP2>

Involving our students: Site visit during ground works

Students from year 12 conducted a site walk throughout the newly established construction site. After a safety briefing presentation, students were guided by the building contractor across the different locations where the new buildings will stand. Students were able to ask questions about the construction process and get a first hand look at what it takes to build their new school.

Through this visit, students took away new knowledge that will be complemented with lessons learnt through the school's STEM curriculum, not to mention a memory to share throughout the years of the day that they were in the site as their new school was being built.

Works outside of the established construction zone

In the coming weeks, excavation and drainage works outside of the established construction zone will begin. The works include excavation and replacing drainage pipes along Charles Street and continuing towards the Namoi river. We are working with Narrabri Shire Council to finalise the documentation and plans that will support a safe and efficient delivery of these works, once this is complete we will let the community know of an approximate start date.

We expect that some access to footpaths may be impacted for short periods of time. More detailed communication to outline any impacts to the traffic surrounding the site will be shared once a start date for these works is confirmed. For a map of the location of these works please see the Project update for [October 2022](#).

This can be accessed in the library section of the Wee Waa High School redevelopment at Schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au.

You can sign up to the project's mailing list by using the contact us form on the [Wee Waa High School redevelopment](#) project page at www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au.

