

Wee Waa High School redevelopment

Information pack | May 2022



Artist impression of Wee Waa High School

The NSW Government is investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years to deliver 215 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW. This is the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

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.

We are designing a redevelopment of Wee Waa High School to provide upgraded facilities for the school community. The project will deliver:



New learning spaces



Modern core facilities including a library and multipurpose hall



New agricultural and environment centre



Sports fields and sports courts



New Indigenous Cultural Centre

Progress summary

We have worked with stakeholders and technical experts to address submissions received during the exhibition of the SSD application by the Department of Planning and Environment. The response to submissions report is available via the DPE's website: www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/42061.

We have also completed a REF for the school site which will allow us to begin early works and prepare the site for construction.

Next steps

We will be establishing the construction site in preparation for ground works. Site establishment involves installing construction fencing and shade cloth around the perimeter, delivering equipment and materials, and installing work sheds and, facilities for the workers. Once the site is established we will begin early works on site, starting with excavation and levelling.

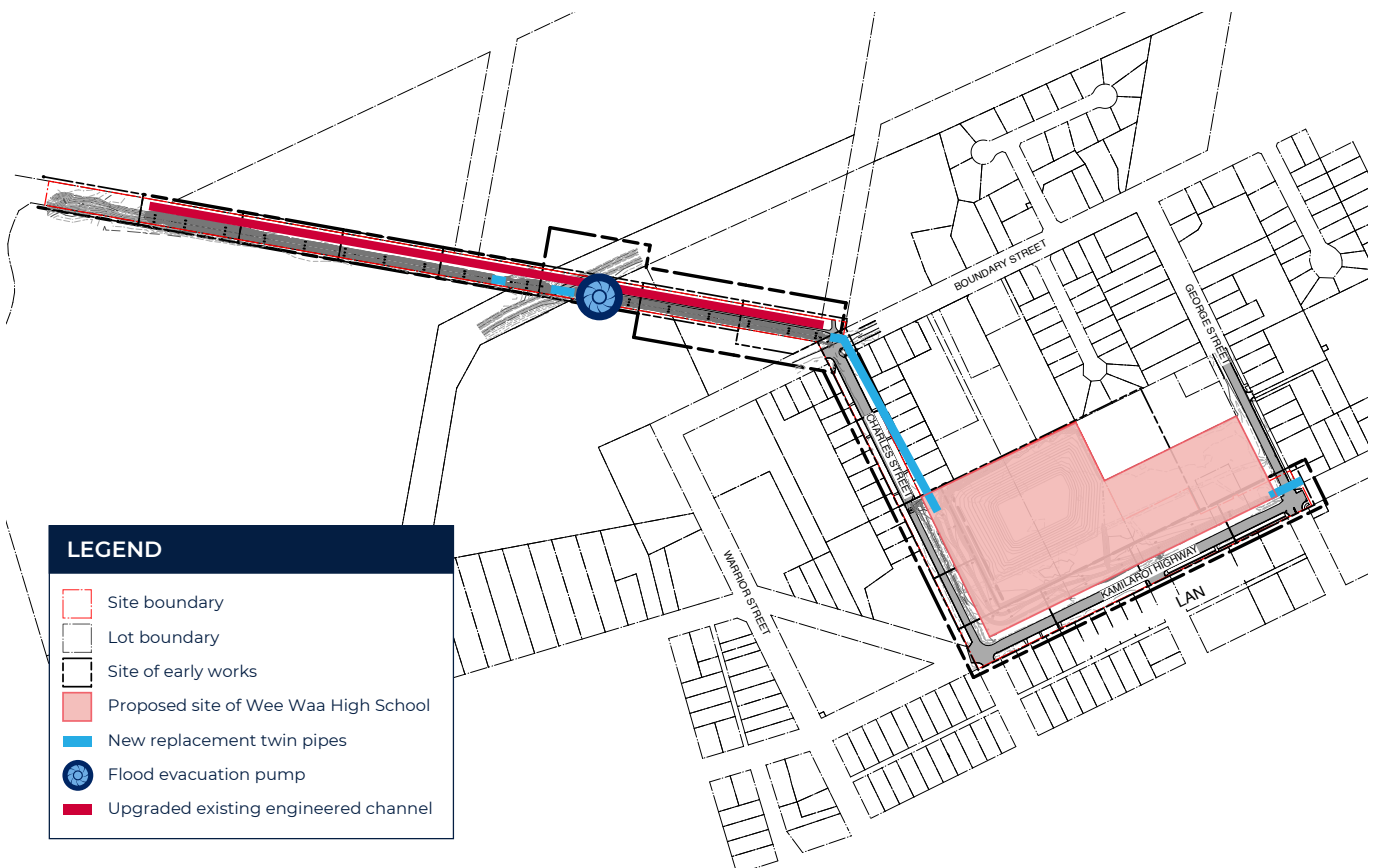
Early works: excavation, levelling and drainage

We are finalising the Review of Environmental Factors for the site on Mitchell Street which will allow us to begin early works and prepare the site for construction.

For this project, the works that will happen under this REF include excavation along Mitchell and Charles Streets to support of the current drainage channel towards the Namoi River.

Open drainage channels run through the Mitchell Street site, which retains stormwater due to natural elevation. To ensure the site is suitable for construction a landscaped stormwater flow channel will be made along the southern and western boundaries of the site, and the site will be graded. The soil excavated from these channels will be used to elevate and level the site, this will ensure that stormwater can flow towards the new and upgraded stormwater infrastructure.

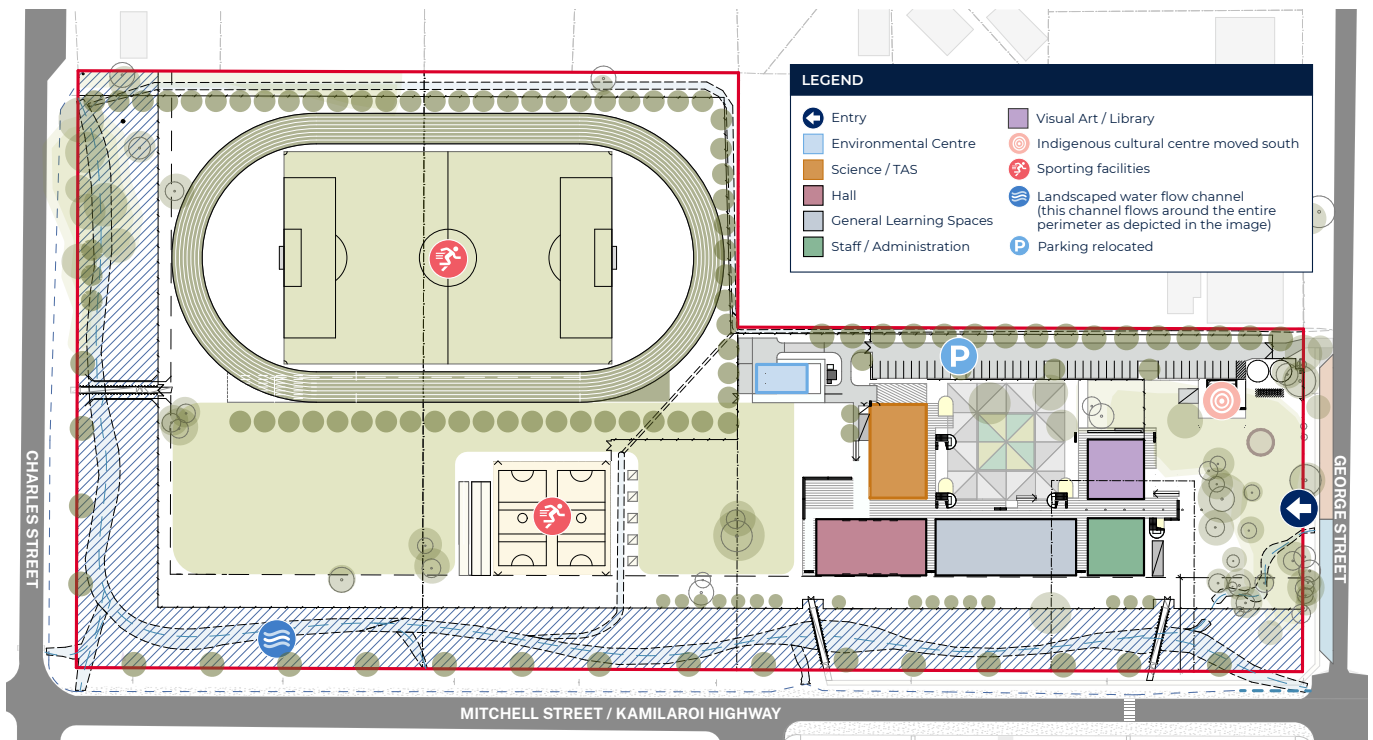
This stormwater drainage system will ensure water can flow to be discharged in the Namoi River. Existing pipes running from the proposed school site under Charles Street towards Boundary Street will be replaced with pipes double in size. The existing engineered channel that carries water from Boundary Street towards the Namoi River will be lowered and upgraded, pipes that carry water underneath the town levee and a walking track outside of the levee will also be doubled in. An additional evacuation pump will be installed at the town levee.



Updated design

The proposed design of the new school has been updated in response to feedback received during the development application's exhibition period. See revised site plan.

- The car parking has been relocated from the western boundary and joined with the internal access road from George Street. The Internal access road width was increased to allow 2-way travel and the Indigenous Cultural Centre was shifted south to accommodate this change.
- The landscape design now includes additional screening fencing along the northern side, maximising native species along the eastern side of the site and removal of two more trees to facilitate access. Removed trees will be replaced and additional trees will be planted throughout the site. When mature, new trees will increase the canopy cover from 2,000sqm to 4,700sqm; an area approximately the size of 18 full size tennis courts.
- Security fencing of minimum 1.8m will surrounds the stormwater drainage channel. Lockable gates will be installed around the perimeter and signage has been increased.
- An Indicative Public Art Strategy has been added to the application which will guide us on the best way to incorporate art in partnership with the school community as we progress towards the detailed design of the project. More information can be found in our Response to Submission report on the DPE website.



Modern methods of construction

We are using innovative construction methodologies to bring schools into operation quickly and safely combining the manufacture of building components, such as wall systems and facades, in a safe, clean and efficient factory environment offsite with onsite assembly.

For the Wee Waa High School redevelopment, the construction approach will use kit of parts. This is where standardised building components including floor systems, panelised walls, roofs, beams, columns, facades, joinery and services for all room types are manufactured offsite and the parts are assembled at the school site.

This approach has the potential to deliver significant safety and sustainability outcomes, reduce construction time and upskill the local workforce.

More information about this can be found on the [School Infrastructure NSW website](#) by searching "modern methods of construction" or by visiting edu.nsw.link/MMC.

The Agricultural Learning Centre

We are following a combination of planning pathways for the Wee Waa High School redevelopment. This approach is often used to make the planning process faster and more efficient.

For the upgrade of the existing agricultural facilities at the High School's Purcell Avenue site we are in the planning phase and continue to develop the proposed design. Once finalised we will inform the community about the planning pathway, proposed scope, timeline and approach. We are mindful that the facilities are still being used by the school and will be working to minimise any impact to the school as we plan the upgrade of these facilities.

For more information about the different planning pathways used in NSW visit the DPE's webpage on the link below or refer to the November information pack available at the School Infrastructure NSW webpage for Wee Waa High School Redevelopment.

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Assess-and-Regulate/Development-Assessment/Planning-Approval-Pathways

Timeline



Get in touch

To have project updates emailed directly to you, complete the 'Get involved' contact form on the [Wee Waa High School project webpage](#) on the School Infrastructure NSW website, or contact us using the details below.

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**

At the NSW Department of Education, we recognise the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where we work and live. We celebrate the First Peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationship to Country and acknowledge the significance of Aboriginal cultures in Australia.