



Artist impression of Wee Waa High School. Indicative only.

Wee Waa High School

Project update

October 2021

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$7.9 billion over the next four years, continuing its program 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.

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 Aboriginal Learning Centre.

Progress summary

The master planning and concept design phases are almost complete. During the development of the design, the project team received input from the local community across a broad range of themes and issues. This feedback has been incorporated, where appropriate, in the design.

We expect to soon award the Early Contractor Involvement contract, the early contractor will work closely with the project team to complete the design and progress towards delivery of the project.

A State Significant Development (SSD) application is forecast for lodgment over the coming month, and will be on exhibition for 28 days for formal feedback. We will notify the community when this is lodged and share further details about the project's design.

Working with our students

Year 10 science class students got involved in field work for the acoustic assessment report. The report measures sound and vibrations to inform the project and will be submitted as part of the SSD application. Students were guided remotely by the sound specialist and supported by the science teacher as they set up, calibrated and used the technical equipment to conduct the work.

The school community have played an important role during the early planning stages of the project. Our project team will continue to look for opportunities to involve our students to add to their learning experience as part of this project, when safe to do so.

For more information contact:

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NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

Frequently asked questions

What is a State Significant Development application?

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

How can I find out more about the SSD application?

You can find detailed information about the SSD application by going to the DPIE's website, if you would like to provide feedback on the concept design, you can make a formal submission during the exhibition period of 28 days by following the 'Make a Submission' link. Feedback on the SSD application should be directed to DPIE via their website;

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/42061>

What is the design process?

The first stage of design, the master plan, was prepared as part of the Business Case development for the project. The next phase, concept design, responds to a wide range of inputs from technical experts and key stakeholders such as Wee Waa High School staff, Narrabri Shire Council, Transport for NSW and the NSW Government Architect.

Investigations and analysis conducted in a suite of disciplines including transport engineering, ecological sustainability, civil engineering, and pedagogical agriculture have informed the evolving design. The concept design has continued to change to ensure the best results are being achieved for the Wee Waa community. The latest version of the concept design will be shared with community when the SSD application is lodged.

When will construction works begin?

The major works construction will begin once planning approval is received, which is anticipated in early 2022. Works to prepare the site for construction could begin at an earlier date, the community will be notified if this is required.

How will the water drainage of the proposed site be managed?

Open water drainage channels run through the proposed site, which retains water due to natural elevation. A range of experts have informed our approach to address this issue throughout the early planning of the project. The recently appointed contractor will now work with the project team to further develop a proposed solution which will be shared with the community as part of the SSD application. We are also working closely with Narrabri Shire Council to ensure that our design complements the town's existing stormwater infrastructure.

More information about the proposed approach at managing the water drainage of the site will be available for public feedback as part of the SSD application and shared with the community as part of upcoming project updates.

Information session update

Due to travel restrictions across NSW, community information sessions have been unable to go ahead as planned.

We hope to reschedule the information session in the coming months, in line with the NSW government's guidelines for regional travel.

All relevant information including images of the concept design, information about the SSD application and projected building timeline will be shared with the community via the school channels and all collateral will be available to download from the library section of Wee Waa High School project webpage at www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/w/wee-waa-high-school-redevelopment.html

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.

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