



Young High School upgrade and joint use library and community facility

Project update

February 2022

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 major upgrade is underway at Young High School. The project will deliver a new joint use library and community facility, funded under a partnership between Hilltops Council and the NSW Department of Education.

Students and community members will benefit from new learning spaces, access to multimedia technology, reading and study areas, children's activity area, coffee bar, dedicated arts area and the Wiradjuri learning and cultural centre.

Additional upgrade works to the school by School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) include a new toilet block, canteen, staff hub and landscaping of the grounds.

Works progress and next steps

Archaeological salvage excavations

The archaeological team recently finished the salvage excavations and recovered more than 20,000 historical artefacts from the site for the new joint use library and community facility. These range from fragments of glass and ceramics to buttons from police uniforms, pen nibs, animal bones and firearms-related artefacts (including projectiles fired), with most dating from the 19th century. The majority are believed to be associated with the Lambing Flat riots.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
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www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



The archaeological team worked with representatives from five Aboriginal community groups to focus on salvage excavation below the soil layers left by 19th and 20th century occupants. They recovered stone artefacts made from a range of different types of stone, indicating that the area may have been used for making stone tools and possibly also for camping. The artefacts will be reviewed and discussed with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) before any detailed findings are made public.

A selection of artefacts was displayed at the archaeological open day held at Young High School in December 2021. The open day information pack and information boards have images of some of the artefacts and are available on the [Young High School project page on the School Infrastructure NSW website](#).

The archaeological team will now focus on cleaning, cataloguing and interpreting the artefacts. The team will produce a detailed report of their findings, which will be made publicly available. Due to the large number of artefacts, the report will take many months to produce.

School upgrade works

Young High School's new canteen, student toilets and staff hub were handed over to the school in time for use from Day 1 Term 1 2022. An area of the staff hub will be used as the school's temporary library until the new joint use library is finished and ready for use. The temporary demountable toilet blocks and canteen have now been removed from the school site.

Landscaping and tree removal

In late December, the project team received approval from the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) to modify the landscape design for Carrington Park and the internal school quadrangle. For Carrington Park, the modified design includes retaining 8 trees previously marked for removal and amendments to proposed paving and footpaths. The changes will minimise the impact of the development on the park, while making the library accessible for all.

For the internal school quadrangle, the approval from DPE permitted the contractor to remove 2 trees over the summer school holidays, which would have had minimal chance of survival due to unavoidable construction impacts.

We understand that these trees held sentimental value for the school community and the project team is working with Young High School on an appropriate way to preserve and reuse parts of the trees onsite. Possible options include Young High School using the main trunk to create sculptures or additional seating and mulching the branches for the new garden beds and Aboriginal gardens on site.

In place of the trees, we will plant additional garden beds and semi-mature trees, and will create a new open space area with seating for students.

Full details of the modification and supporting documents (including the arborist's report) can be viewed on the NSW planning portal website (planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects).

Next steps

Over the next few months, the contractor will undertake bulk earthworks as well as preparatory works to lay the concrete slab for the new joint use library. This will include in-ground works to install hydraulic, stormwater and electrical services for the new library building.

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Frequently asked questions

What will happen to the artefacts recovered from the archaeological salvage works?

Location details and information about each find will be recorded by the project archaeologists in a detailed salvage report. Artefacts which are deemed suitable for display will be cleaned, catalogued, and analysed.

Why couldn't the trees in the school quadrangle be retained?

The intention had been to retain these trees however the project arborist advised that the excavation works required for the project will completely damage the root zones of the trees and that the only option was to remove both trees.

Full details of the modification and supporting documents (including the arborist's statement) can be viewed on the NSW planning portal website (planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects).

When will the new joint use library be completed?

Our team is working closely with the contractor to understand the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and the archaeological investigations on the project timeline.

We will provide updated information about project construction schedules and delivery dates when it is available. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to deliver this important project.

What are the construction hours for the project?

Construction hours are 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and 8 am to 1 pm Saturday.

What steps will be taken to control noise and dust impacts of construction works?

Flexshield noise barrier curtains will be placed along the TAFE early childhood facility fence and around any noise generating works.

Shade cloth will be used to reduce dust impacts on the school and its neighbours. Dust from construction works will be hosed down with water as required. Trucks entering and leaving the site will cover their loads and be washed down to prevent tracking dust and mud from the site

Who can I contact if I have a question, concern or feedback about construction work?

The safety and wellbeing of the community is our biggest priority. Should you have any questions, concerns or feedback throughout the construction phase, please contact School Infrastructure NSW by emailing schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au or calling 1300 482 651.



For a **Translation and Interpreting Service**, call **131 450** and ask them to call the Department of Education - School Infrastructure NSW on **1300 482 651**.

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