



Artist impression of the Hilltops library and community facility

Young High School upgrade and joint-use library and community facility

Project update

November 2020

Investing in our schools

The NSW Government is investing \$6.7 billion over four years to deliver more than 190 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 for a major upgrade to Young High School which includes a new joint-use library and community facility for the school and local community. It will be located on school land and integrated with Carrington Park through landscaping which recognises and celebrates the Indigenous culture and heritage of the region. The library facility is jointly funded by the NSW Government and Hilltops Council.

The school site will also be upgraded and works include the delivery of a new amenities block, a refurbished music room, landscaping and a canteen.

When completed the project will deliver contemporary learning spaces for students and the community, with access to video conferencing and multimedia facilities, a multipurpose workshop, a youth wellbeing hub and the Wiradjuri learning and cultural centre.

Progress summary

The schematic design has been completed and endorsed. A Deed and Lease agreement has been executed with Hilltops Council. Early works on the school upgrade have been completed. The State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was approved on 21 May 2020.

A timber specialist conducted underfloor investigations as a result of suggestion that a prisoner transfer tunnel exists between the former court house and gaol. No evidence of a tunnel was found during this investigation.

The tender process for the main works construction contractor is complete. This contract was awarded to Joss Group.

Next steps

- Main works contractor will prepare a construction management plan including a workplace health and safety environment plan.
- Detailed design will commence.
- Project Reference Group (PRG) meetings will take place monthly.
- On-site investigations including exploratory digs will continue into the suggestion of a prisoner transfer tunnel when main works starts.
- Main works construction to commence late 2020. This includes site establishment with hoarding to be erected around the perimeter of the site.

Frequently asked questions

What days of the week will the school library operate for the general public?

The library will be open to the general public 7 days per week.

There are reports of a historic tunnel under the school. How will this impact the project?

The design of the project has been developed in close consultation with heritage consultants GML Heritage and responds to the project brief, site opportunities and constraints, as well as the heritage significance of the site.

School Infrastructure NSW acknowledges that there is a suggestion that a prisoner transfer tunnel exists between the Great Courthouse (located within the school site) and gaol (located within the TAFE site). Investigations by the project team to date have not located the tunnel and no there is no documentary evidence specific to the site which has been found to-date.

Extensive investigations so far have included:

- Ground penetrating radar scans to depths of four metres were completed in two locations, one of which was identified by a member of the public as to where the tunnel could be located
- Preliminary site investigations undertaken beneath the floor of the former Courthouse building
- Further investigations undertaken by a timber specialist in June 2020.

Additional inspections and archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during the works.

In line with the conditions of consent, if any unexpected archaeological relics, such as the tunnels, are uncovered during the work, then School Infrastructure NSW will cease all work immediately in that area and contact the Heritage Council.

We will keep the community informed of further investigations and next steps.

How is school and community input being provided?

Following community engagement in 2017, a Community Project Steering Committee was set up by Hilltops Council to help capture local community feedback.

A Project Reference Group (PRG) has also been established. This comprises representatives from Hilltops Council, the NSW Department of Education, School Principal, the school P&C committee, librarians, and the design team. This group will continue to meet to provide advice and endorsement as the project progresses.

Multiple community information sessions have also previously been held at both the Hilltops Council Chambers in Young and Young High School. Community members were invited to provide verbal and written feedback on the designs presented.

Community and the general public are also invited to contact School Infrastructure NSW to provide feedback and comments via phone on 1300 482 651 or email at schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au.

Consent conditions and proposed actions

Activity	Consent conditions and proposed actions
General	<p>Noise levels generated by the operations at site shall not exceed the construction noise management levels detailed in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009). The local community will be provided with advance notice of work, particularly outlining any anticipated high-noise works.</p> <p>Trucks will only use approved truck routes to and from the site.</p>
Demolition	<p>Consent condition:</p> <p>High-noise works include building demolition – machine with hammering.</p> <p>Proposed actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Please note that long-term exposure to high levels of noise is unlikely.▪ Downtimes of works (respite periods) will be implemented to manage impacts on surrounding operations and residents.▪ Plant and equipment will be set up and orientated to direct noise away from the closest receivers and/or residents.▪ The quietest suitable machinery will be selected to perform works.▪ In close proximity to sensitive receivers and/or residents, machines will not be used or run simultaneously.

Activity	Consent conditions and proposed actions
Heritage	<p>Consent condition:</p> <p>Unexpected finds protocol – historic heritage</p> <p>Proposed actions:</p> <p>If any unexpected archaeological relics (including but not limited to prisoner transfer tunnels or similar / associated features) are uncovered during the work, then all works must cease immediately in that area and the Heritage Council contacted.</p> <p>Works may only recommence with the written approval of the Heritage Council.</p>
Heritage	<p>Consent condition:</p> <p>Heritage interpretation strategy and plan</p> <p>Proposed actions:</p> <p>Prior to the commencement of construction (excluding demolition and earthworks), the Applicant must submit a Heritage Interpretation Strategy and a Heritage Interpretation Plan to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.</p>
Construction	<p>Consent condition:</p> <p>Construction hours</p> <p>Proposed actions:</p> <p>If noisy works such as sheet piling, concrete and rock breaking, are required, impacts will be managed through equipment selection, and respite periods. Rock breaking hours will be strictly limited to approved hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 9:00am to 12:00pm, Monday to Friday▪ 2:00pm to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday▪ 9:00am to 12:00pm, Saturday. <p>Overall, construction, including delivery of materials to and from site will be strictly limited to approved hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Friday▪ 8:00am to 1:00pm, Saturday.
Tree Protection	<p>Consent condition:</p> <p>Tree protection</p> <p>Proposed actions:</p> <p>For the duration of the construction works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ all trees on the site that are not approved for removal must be suitably protected during construction;▪ the Reconciliation Tree must be protected in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Sub-Plan (ACHMSP).

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au