



Artist impression of the Kingscliff Public School upgrade

# Kingscliff Public School

Project update | November 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

Kingscliff Public School is being upgraded to provide new permanent teaching spaces and core facilities to cater for enrolment growth in the area. The scope of work includes replacement of all classrooms including demountable buildings, a new library, an extended hall with new canteen, new outdoor spaces and a redeveloped school entry.

## Progress update

To ensure the school gains the benefits of new facilities as soon as possible, the upgrade is being delivered in stages. Construction works for the new administration building started in August 2021. This work was able to proceed, separate to the rest of the upgrade project, under a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) planning approval.

Construction of the remainder of the upgrade is expected to start early next year, subject to approval of the State Significant Development (SSD) application by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE).

## Aboriginal heritage find

In late October 2021, Aboriginal artefacts (two stone flake tools) were discovered within the work zone of the new administration building. The artefacts were immediately cordoned off and reported to Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) after being identified. Heritage NSW and DPIE further confirmed that all compliance measures were correctly observed following the discovery.

## For more information contact:

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We are currently in the process of lodging an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) in order to continue works on the administration building, as per the *NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)*.

School Infrastructure NSW is working closely with the LALC, Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP), Heritage NSW and the Tweed Shire Council to ensure all relevant parties are consulted. We will continue to work with representatives from the Aboriginal community to ensure heritage is protected.

### **Next steps**

Works to the administration building have been paused until the Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit is received. The project team and contractor are currently exploring opportunities to change the order of construction stages to minimise delays. We will keep the community updated on any changes to when facilities are expected to be completed.

Construction of the remainder of the upgrade is expected to start in early 2022, subject to planning approval of the State Significant Development (SSD) application by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).

Thank you for your patience while we deliver this important school infrastructure.

## **FAQS**

### **What is a Review of Environmental Factors (REF)?**

To make it easier to provide new and upgraded education facilities for communities, the Education SEPP for schools allows some development work to occur without council planning approval. For the Kingscliff Public School upgrade, the allowable works are the refurbishment of the administration building. School Infrastructure NSW was required to complete a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to determine any potential environmental impact of the works. This process included notifying neighbours and stakeholders of the proposed development.

### **What is an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP)?**

An AHIP is a permit granted by Heritage NSW for REF works that require ground disturbance in areas where Aboriginal artefacts could be discovered. Under this permit, all ground disturbing works are to be monitored by a heritage consultant and a representative of the LALC. The project was unable to gain an AHIP prior to commencing REF works as previous archaeological investigations did not identify any material on site that required an AHIP. As a result, the project was not able to apply for a permit.

### **What archaeological studies were undertaken prior to works commencing?**

As part of the planning application for the SSD works we were required to submit an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA), to assess whether Aboriginal cultural values and objects are present, the nature and extent of cultural values and objects and the harm a proposed activity may cause to Aboriginal objects and places.

Investigations were carried out in November 2020 by a team of archaeologists, RAPS and the LALC. These investigations involved digging a number of small test pits across the school site to allow the team to identify any potential Aboriginal objects or materials that may be present in the underlying soil. A copy of the final ACHA report can be found on DPIE's website under: <http://mpweb.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/38056>

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