



Indicative design of the new Bungendore High School

Bungendore High School

Project update | December 2023

Investing in our schools

As part of the NSW Government's plan to rebuild essential services, the 2023-24 Budget is delivering a historic \$1.4 billion for new and upgraded schools in regional NSW. This targeted investment in growing communities will ensure working families get access to world class public education.

Project overview

Bungendore High School opened on Day 1 Term 1 2023 in temporary facilities located at Bungendore Public School.

The permanent high school, due to be built within the Majara / Gibraltar Streets Precinct, will have modern facilities, with 24 flexible learning spaces to accommodate approximately 450 students. It will deliver a library, multi-purpose hall, canteen, sports courts and an agricultural plot.

As part of the project, Bungendore Public School will also receive upgrades, including new teaching spaces, upgrades to the existing playing field and a new amenities block.

Progress update

There has been strong community interest in ensuring the best possible school is delivered in this community. Local residents have expressed varied views, including through the NSW Parliament. A petition titled "Build Bungendore High School" received 755 signatures and another petition, titled "Save Bungendore Park and build a better Bungendore High School", received 617 signatures.

As outlined in previous project updates, an incorporated entity initiated court proceedings seeking to challenge the validity of the development consent to build the high school.

On Wednesday 13 December 2023, the Land and Environment Court issued a ruling that owner's consent from the Minister for Crown Lands should have been sought prior to lodging the planning application in 2021.

School Infrastructure NSW acknowledges this administrative error and sincerely apologises to the community for the delay this has caused. The Department remains committed to delivering the new school at its permanent location as soon as possible, which will deliver world-class learning facilities for the current and future students of Bungendore High School.

Next steps

Following this ruling, the Department of Education is working to correct the error of process identified by the Court.

We expect this will be completed shortly, enabling work to begin on the permanent school as soon as possible.

Following planning approvals, the main works contract will be awarded. Once awarded, more information about start and completion dates will be provided when the delivery program has been finalised.

We will update the community on this work in the new year, and provide a revised timeline for the permanent build.

In the meantime, per the notification issued in September 2023, the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has leased the Bungendore Pool, which will stay open for the 2023/24 swimming season.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the Department considering moving the school to another site?

The Majara / Gibraltar Streets Precinct has been identified as the most suitable site for the new high school in Bungendore. As a result, this Precinct remains the preferred location.

What is required to rectify this administrative error?

The Court found that the NSW Minister for Crown Lands should have given their formal consent, as landowner, as part of the original planning application in 2021. The Department is now seeking to rectify this.

Would the school be built faster on a new site?

No. The Department has not identified a suitable alternative site available for the new high school.

If an alternative site had been identified, the process to acquire land, design a school and go through the state significant development application process on an alternative site would delay the project by several years, leaving students in temporary facilities indefinitely.

Is the selected site big enough for future expansion?

Yes. The planning work currently undertaken includes the development of a master plan that considers expansion for future growth to accommodate projected enrolments to 2036. The schools core buildings, including the hall, library, administration, and canteen, have been sized for over 660 students.

Possible future expansion, if required, has been masterplanned within the current Majara / Gibraltar Streets Precinct site acquired for the school. Any future expansion will not impact Mick Sherd Oval.