

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Information pack

December 2020



Hurlstone Agricultural High School Agricultural Facilities

The NSW Government is investing \$7 billion over the next four years, continuing its program to deliver more than 200 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.

The NSW Government proposes to invest in the future of Hurlstone Agricultural High School to continue its legacy of contribution to agricultural education. Following consultation with the school community, parents, carers, alumni and industry in early 2020, we have reviewed feedback and refined plans for the project.

Students will benefit from contemporary agricultural education through a proposed farm and boarding upgrade including fit for purpose farming technology in a centralised farm hub. The proposed upgrades include:



New farm facilities



A new farm layout



New and upgraded boarding



Improved educational and agricultural outcomes

We're investing into the future of agricultural education at Hurlstone Agricultural High School

New farm layout and facilities

An improved farm layout and modern technology will deliver broader educational experiences. A centralised farm hub with new facilities including dairy and learning spaces is at the core of the proposed upgrade.

- Students will be provided with learning opportunities capturing the best of contemporary agricultural knowledge and practical farming experiences to improve their skills
- Supports development of school curriculum linked to modernised and efficient farming resources and enterprises
- New dairy facilities will enable Hurlstone Agricultural High School to potentially capitalise on milk processing and pasteurisation
- Provides opportunity for cohesive and expanded partnerships with industry experts



New and upgraded boarding

New and refurbished facilities for up to 180 boarders to support the overall wellbeing of students

- Will help achieve equitable access to selective, agricultural education for all students across NSW
- Will attract more students to the school, from regional and rural areas
- Will create a greater sense of community, belonging and social cohesion for the Hurlstone community

Artist impression of boarding upgrade

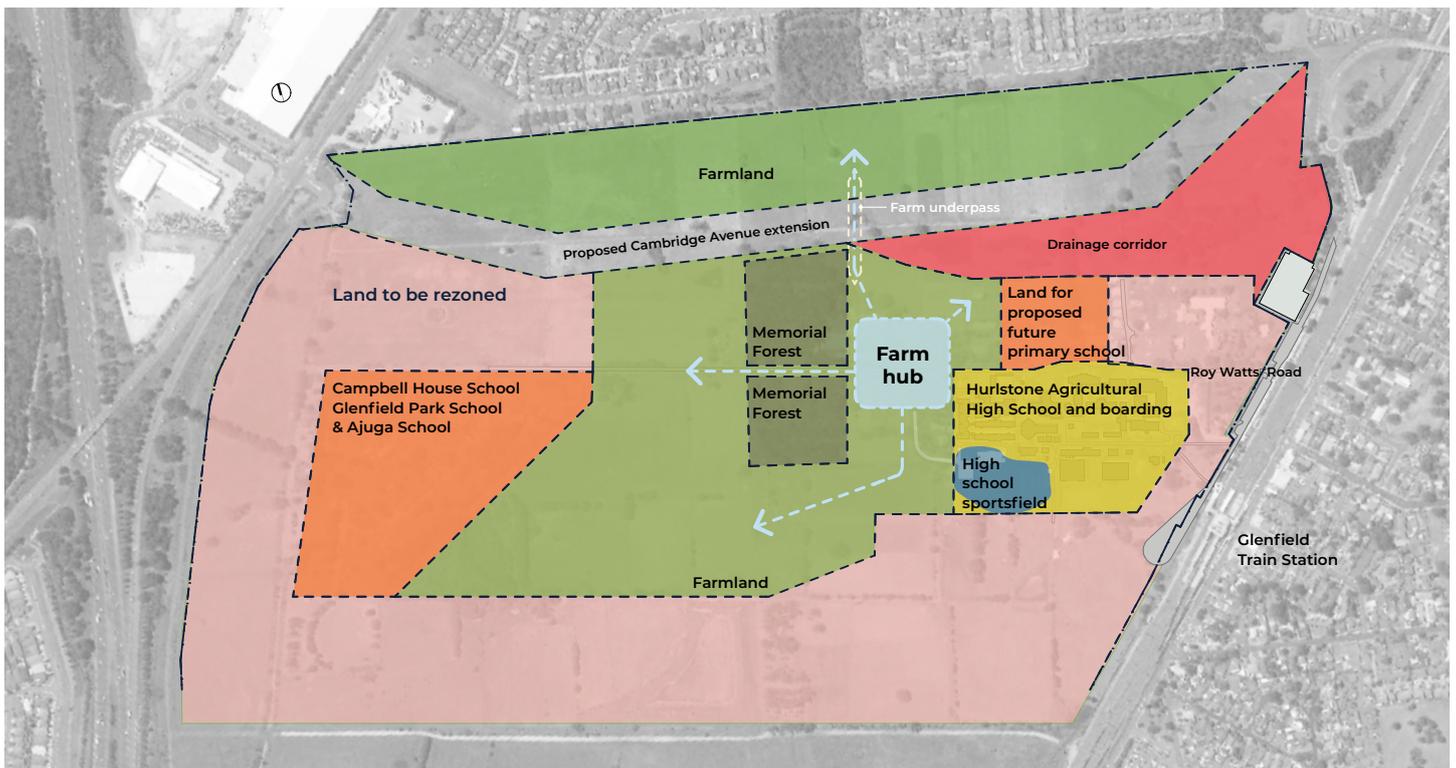
Progress summary

This project is currently in the master planning stage and we have developed masterplans for farming and boarding upgrades. The final project will be lodged for approval in late 2020. Before the approval stage, we would like to show the community how plans for the school have progressed and how we have incorporated feedback from consultation in early 2020.

Process timeline



New proposed farm layout



Since the announcement of a new NSW agricultural model for education in December 2019, and consultation in early 2020, we have examined the need for investment in the farm, land use decisions, and key links to educational outcomes.

Implementing modern farming facilities and technology will achieve a future focused learning experience, while maintaining all existing farm enterprises.

Land use decisions were made by prioritising teaching and learning outcomes for students and were influenced by industry experts, Department of Education staff and feedback from community consultation.

The Department of Education will retain approximately 77 hectares for the Hurlstone campus (school, farm, dairy, sporting facilities and boarding), the schools for special purposes, and an area for a potential future primary school. The farm and dairy will be retained on approximately 50 hectares.

Proposed farming upgrades at Hurlstone Agricultural High School will create fit for purpose facilities to support the next generation of students learning about contemporary agriculture and science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM). Key farming technology and all existing enterprises will be upgraded or relocated to a central farm hub.



New farm facilities

An improved farm layout and modern technology will support the education of our next generation of researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and workers across the agricultural sector.

A centralised farm hub is at the core of the proposed farm upgrade and will include co-located farming enterprises, technology and livestock housing.

All existing farming enterprises will be co-located in the farm hub including dairy cows, sheep, beef cattle, pigs, chickens, hydroponics, cropping for animal feed and horticulture. Importantly, new irrigation systems will be included in the upgrade, resulting in more efficient use of the land and resources.

Students will be provided with learning opportunities capturing the best of contemporary agricultural/STEAM knowledge and practical experiences across farming enterprises. The farm upgrade also provides an opportunity for partnerships with industry and tertiary education.

The proposed new farm hub will include the following modern facilities:

- Dairy shed
- Milking parlour
- Dairy processing equipment
- Viewing area
- Co-located learning space
- Calf, beef, and pig sheds
- Aquaculture within the Hydroponic facility
- Commodity shed and storage facilities
- Sheep shed and shearing facility
- Poultry facility (layer shed and chicken coops)

The proposed farm upgrade also includes new farming equipment and irrigation systems. The hydroponic and horticultural facilities will be relocated to the farm hub.

The proposed new farm hub



New and upgraded boarding

Following consultation with the school community, parents, alumni and industry in early 2020, we have reviewed feedback and refined plans for the proposed boarding upgrade.

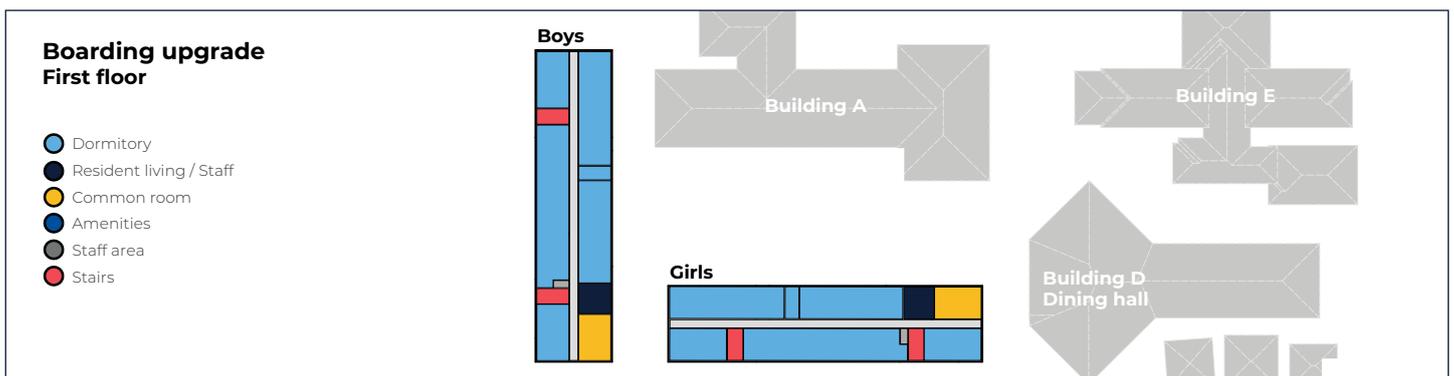
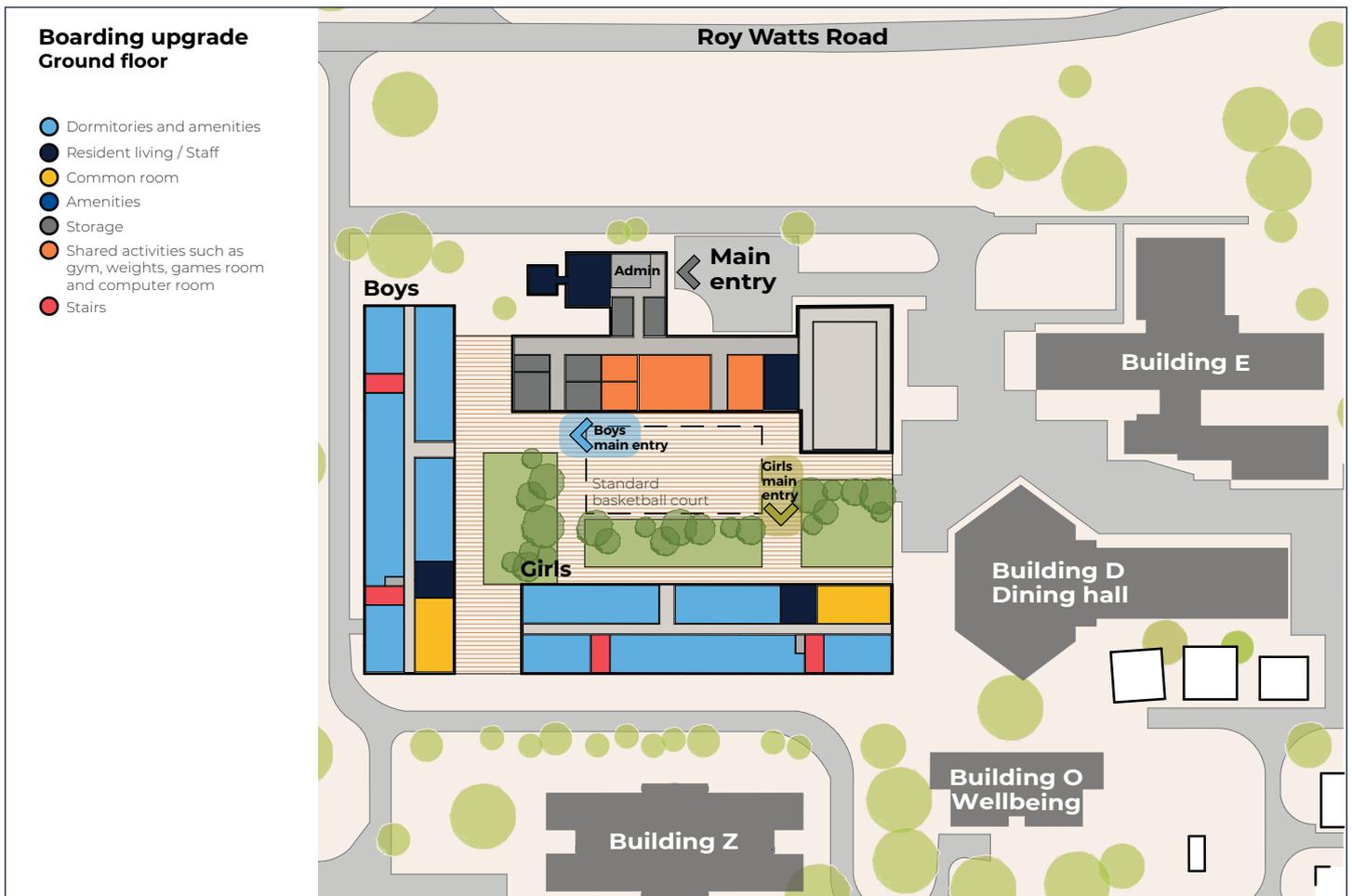
Revitalising the boarding will provide fit for purpose facilities, attract new boarders from rural and regional NSW and create a sense of community and belonging.

The proposed boarding upgrade will provide students with facilities for up to 180 students, as well as provide

staff accommodation. This consists of 30 students per school year and a 50/50 female/male split. The boarding upgrade focuses on improving the overall management, social interaction, and supervision of students. The boarding upgrade will remain within the footprint of buildings A, B, C and N. The upgrade involves refurbishing some existing facilities such as Building A which is heritage listed, and partially rebuilding others. We are seeking feedback from community and stakeholders on the boarding upgrade.

Block E (heritage listed Clarke House), Blocks D, O and N3 will be retained and will continue to be used by the school. Block Z will be used during the boarding upgrade for student accommodation and once the upgrade is complete, will be demolished and the land converted into sports fields.

Boarding upgrade: refurbishment of existing building Block A, removal of Blocks B, C and N, and replacement with new male and female boarding facilities. The new facilities will consist of a new building layout to create better separation of boys' and girls' dormitories with a co-ed outdoor common area on the ground floor.



Frequently asked questions

A full list of frequently asked questions is available on the SINSW website for this project or can be requested through our community phone line or email.

What is involved in the Hurlstone Agricultural High School project?

Following the project announcement in December 2019, and consultation in early 2020, we have examined the need for investment in the farm, and how it links to educational outcomes.

Student outcomes and learning are at the centre of decision making. The proposed farm upgrades will create fit for purpose facilities to support the next generation of students learning about contemporary agriculture and STEAM.

To achieve improved agricultural education outcomes, we propose to upgrade the farm, co-locate technology in a centralised farm hub and upgrade boarding facilities.

The Department of Education has also determined the size of land for divestment. This was influenced by feedback received in early 2020 by community and stakeholders who strongly supported retaining land for upgraded farming facilities and improved agricultural/STEAM education outcomes.

What are the benefits of the proposed new upgrades and facilities at Hurlstone?

The proposed upgrades to the farm and boarding will provide students with:

- improved educational outcomes in agriculture and STEAM
- new and upgraded boarding facilities with additional capacity for up to 180 boarders
- new fit for purpose, modern farm and dairy facilities offering expanded education experiences
- ease of farm operations and management
- more opportunities for students to view and interact with livestock
- collaboration opportunities with the new Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education, universities and industry.

What is the project delivery timeline?

The business case is expected to be lodged later in 2020. A detailed timeframe for delivery will be confirmed as planning progresses.

How can I get involved in this consultation?

The health and safety of students, staff and community is our priority. We are temporarily changing some of the ways we keep you informed about this project to account for social distancing measures.

School Infrastructure NSW has developed an online community information session to provide the community an alternative way to hear about our projects.

We are consulting the community and stakeholders on the proposed farm and boarding upgrades and seeking feedback from industry and interested parties on potential partnership opportunities with the school.

This feedback will be considered as the project team refines the proposed farm and boarding upgrades during the next phase of detailed design and delivery.

How does this project relate to the Mal Peters report recommendations and Pratley review?

The Mal Peters report suggests modernising and delivering future focused agricultural/STEAM learning opportunities for students. The proposed upgrades for Hurlstone directly respond to the recommendations from the Mal Peters report and Pratley review to:

- increase food and fibre study opportunities for secondary students
- enable state-wide best practice in curriculum delivery and student engagement
- increase access to agricultural education and training for metropolitan students.

Land changes

Hurlstone Agricultural High School is part of the Glenfield precinct that is being master planned for a range of future uses. As part of this, the Department of Education has determined that approximately 82 hectares of its land will be divested. This land is currently being exhibited by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

The Department of Education will retain approximately 77 hectares for the Hurlstone campus (school, farm, dairy, sporting facilities and boarding), the schools for special purposes (Campbell House School, Glenfield Park School and Ajuga School), and an area for a potential new primary school that may be required in the future.

The farm and dairy will be retained on approximately 50 hectares alone by implementing a sustainable irrigation system that will improve the productivity of the retained farmland, and support the dairy, cropping and other livestock.

Land use decisions were made by prioritising teaching and learning outcomes for students and were influenced by industry experts, Department of Education staff and feedback from community consultation.

The size of a farm for a school involves considering farming outcomes required for students and educational purposes, rather than those in a non-educational context. Students will be able to take advantage of a meaningful contemporary educational experience in a manageable and modern fit for purpose facility.

Other government projects

In parallel to the Hurlstone Agricultural High School land use changes, and farming and boarding upgrades, two other government agencies are announcing projects and seeking community and stakeholder feedback.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is seeking to consult on the rezoning of the land to be divested at the Glenfield site as part of the wider Glenfield precinct. This includes the soon to be divested Department of Education owned land as described above.

For more information, you can contact the Department of Industry, Planning and Environment on 1300 305 695, or email glenfield.precinct@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Transport for NSW is consulting on the proposed Cambridge Avenue extension, which intersects Department of Education land. This extension includes a four-lane dual carriageway between Canterbury Road and Campbelltown Road. Consultation is now open through Transport for NSW and feedback welcomed on the recommended option and design.

schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

For more information, contact Transport for NSW on 1800 370 601, email cambridgeavenue@rms.nsw.gov.au or visit rms.work/cambridgeave.

Prior consultation

In February and March 2020, 96 community members attended a Community Information Session at Hurlstone Agricultural High School, and 127 surveys were received on the project proposal.

We would like to extend a thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback. Common themes raised were:

- the value of the school to the agricultural sector
- the school retaining its working farm status
- improved communications on the project timeline, status and project information.

Since this consultation, we have spent time considering all feedback and used this to refine the proposed upgrades.

Next steps

Following this consultation process, the next steps for the project include:

- a Project Reference Group will be formed
- the project will be lodged for approval
- concept design will be completed
- planning application will be lodged for development consent.

Stay informed



Website

Stay up to date by visiting the School Infrastructure NSW website schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au



Email

Contact the Community Engagement team by emailing schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au



Phone

Contact us between 9:00am and 5:00pm, Monday to Friday on **1300 482 651**