

# HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL

2020



## Over \$35 million for a new Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury

In 2020 Hurlstone Agricultural High School will move to a purpose built state of the art facility at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Campus.

The new Hurlstone Agricultural High School will be an academically selective agriculture and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) school for 1,500 students across NSW.

The new school will be the most advanced agricultural high school in Australia, benefiting from a unique partnership with Western Sydney University's School of Science and Health, and the highest quality agricultural and STEM research expertise.

Students at the new Hurlstone Agricultural High School will have access to world class science, agriculture and technology facilities, as well as learning spaces designed using the findings of the Department of Education's Future Learning Unit.

The new school's facilities will include interactive learning spaces, state of the art boarding and sporting facilities, laboratories and full WIFI connectivity.

Students at the school will have access to extensive farming land suitable for both intensive and progressive farming practices.

### Agriculture and science for the 21st Century

The future of agriculture in Australia will rely on our ability to translate scientific research into technology based innovation that enhances our global competitiveness, improves food security and delivers sustainable solutions. In its 2014 report, Positioning for Prosperity, Deloitte identified agribusiness as one of five 'next wave' industries for Australia in the wake of the mining boom.

The integrated model of high school-university framed education under development for Hurlstone Agricultural High School will infuse critical stages of the educational experience with the intensive agricultural and STEM innovations required to build Australia's competitive advantage in this rapidly expanding sector of our economy.



### Hurlstone Agricultural High School: the history

Hurlstone Agricultural High School (HAHS) established in 1907 in Summer Hill, to prepare students for farm pursuits and for admission to Hawkesbury Agricultural College.

In 1926, HAHS moves to a new site at Glenfield, near Campbelltown. At that stage Glenfield was a rural community with a small village and farming paddocks.

In 2020, HAHS will move to a new state of the art facility at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Campus, near Richmond.



## Western Sydney University agriculture and STEM facilities

As part of this unique partnership, the Department and the University are developing plans for HAHS students to have access to a range of University facilities as well as its world class academics and researchers.

### Key University facilities include:

- Three greenhouses that currently hold the insectary and native plant experiments with fully controlled CO<sub>2</sub> and temperate conditions.
- Six carbon fibre rings respectively encompassing 25m segments of Cumberland Plain forest work to predict - decades in advance - the effects of rising CO<sub>2</sub> levels on forest ecosystems.
- Six large and 48 contained rainout shelters, enabling the study of controlled exposure to drought.
- World class laboratories dedicated to genomics, soil science, molecular biology, plant physiology, microbiology and plant-insect interactions.
- Growth chambers used for plant biochemistry and manipulative plant-microbe interaction research, employing similar experimental treatments as those in glasshouses and field research facilities.
- State of the art, technology interfaced lecture theatres and blended learning spaces.
- 1400 hectares of farming land.

### NEW HURLSTONE AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES – QUICK FACTS

- ✓ Fully serviced 7-12 selective high school, for up to 1500 students.
- ✓ Over \$35 million to build new facilities, including touch sensitive screens, writable walls, breakout pods, flexible learning spaces and full WiFi connectivity.
- ✓ Boarding facilities.
- ✓ Shared sporting and recreational facilities.



## Meeting the challenge

Constant innovation and improvement is essential if the NSW agriculture industry is to stay one step ahead of the international competition. This can only happen with a steady supply of farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs and agronomists with world's best skills and experience.

The quality of our science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates with a passion for agriculture will be NSW's competitive advantage, and Hurlstone Agricultural High School will perform a vital role in this regard.



## Site of the new Hurlstone Agricultural High School



WSU Hawkesbury campus

