

Consultation Outcomes Report

Western Sydney University

Indigenous Centre of Excellence

171 Victoria Road, Parramatta

Submitted to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
on behalf of Western Sydney University



'Gura Bulga'

Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Gura Bulga' – translates to Warm Green Country. Representing New South Wales.



'Dagura Buumarri'

Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Dagura Buumarri' – translates to Cold Brown Country. Representing Victoria.



'Gadalung Djarri'

Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Gadalung Djarri' – translates to Hot Red Country. Representing Queensland.

Ethos Urban acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the project location, the Burramattagal (Barramattagal, Baramadagal) people of the Dharug language group, and extend our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

In supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

Contact:

Ross Hornsey
Director, Social Strategy and
Engagement

rhornsey@ethosurban.com

This document has been prepared by:

Zandile Chivizhe and Julia McLean 17 July 2024

This document has been reviewed by:

Ross Hornsey

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Prepared by

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Executive Summary

Ethos Urban has prepared this Consultation Outcomes Report on behalf of Western Sydney University (the University) to outline the key issues raised by the local community and key stakeholders as part of the preparation of the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the development of an Indigenous Centre of Excellence at the Parramatta South Campus P1 Carpark site, at the northern boundary of the campus fronting Victoria Road.

The new Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be an important asset for both the University and local community alike, providing a space for the commitment to advancing Indigenous education, leadership, and reconciliation. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will stand as a symbol of recognition of Indigenous land and the University's relationship with Indigenous communities.

Full consideration has been given to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment's (DPE) Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) during the consultation, including alignment with the *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (November 2021)*.

The consultation process ensured that potentially impacted stakeholders were identified and provided with the opportunity to learn about the proposal and provide feedback, prior to lodgement.

Engagement activities detailed within this report focussed on the following groups:

- **Surrounding community, including neighbouring residents and businesses** – to ensure local community concerns were understood and feedback was able to be gathered.
- **University stakeholders including staff, students, and leadership** – to ensure the University community was aware of campus changes, any impacts to University operations were understood, and any opportunities identified.
- **Government Agencies as identified in the SEARs** – to work with agencies towards approval of the development.
- **City of Parramatta** – to consult with Council as a key stakeholder.

It should be noted that engagement with First Nations peoples and Traditional Owners was undertaken during the following key phases of the project:

- Development of the Connection to Country Strategy
- Development of the Cultural Design Brief
- As part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

A summary of key activities undertaken during these phases is included in this report, with full details available in related project documentation.

A range of comments and feedback were received by the Project Team, including queries seeking to understand the University's plan for transitioning parking from the P1 site to an alternate location, feedback highlighting the project's location on a site that floods and questions about management of this, and questions around project timing, construction, sustainability, funding, and design features.

The detail contained within this report demonstrates that Western Sydney University has conducted transparent and effective engagement for this proposal and remains committed to further consultation with the community throughout the project.

1.0 Project Introduction

1.1 Site description and location

The Western Sydney University South Parramatta Campus is located at 171 Victoria Road, Parramatta within the City of Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA).

The site comprises one (1) singular allotment, which is legally described as Lot 100 in DP 816829. The project site is known as the P1 Car Park in the northern portion of the wider site campus. The project site is approximately 12,150m² in size and is broadly rectangular in shape. It currently comprises of a hardstand area that accommodates approximately 284 car parking spaces. There is an existing single storey Central Energy Plant to the west of the development area which serves the wider campus; it remains outside of the scope of this SSDA.

The site is strategically positioned to the northern boundary of the Western Sydney University (University) South Parramatta Campus, fronting Victoria Road (the A40). The wider campus comprises a significant landholding size of approximately 20ha containing a series of buildings of differing heights and massing forms which are used for educational purposes. The buildings contained within the wider campus site are dissected by a series of open, at grade car parks, internal roads, pathways, and landscaped areas. The Campus sits to the north of the Parramatta River.

The site is located approximately 3km east of the Parramatta CBD, which is an area undergoing a process of significant transformation. It is also located approximately 500m to the Parramatta Light Rail Corridor, with the construction of the new Yallamundi Light Rail stop now completed and awaiting operation by TfNSW.

The site location is identified in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus locational context

Source: Nearmaps

1.2 Project description

The Applicant seeks development consent for the construction of a new state-of-the-art Indigenous Centre of Excellence as a new tertiary education facility on campus. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in association with Western Sydney University. The new Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be an important asset for both the University and local community alike, providing a space for the commitment to advancing Indigenous education, leadership, and reconciliation. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will stand as a symbol of recognition of Indigenous land and the University's relationship with Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will represent a celebration of tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledges and histories, a legacy that the University is honoured to nurture and promote through further education opportunities for students and communities.

Through the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, the University will aim to drive positive change, increase Indigenous participation in higher education, and contribute to the preservation and sharing of Indigenous cultures.

This State Significant Development Application (SSDA) specifically seeks detailed approval for the following works:

- Site preparation including demolition of the existing car park, tree removal and installation of inground utility infrastructure services.
- Construction of a four-storey Indigenous Centre of Excellence encompassing:
 - Ground level facilities, including but not limited to; a dedicated arrival area, outdoor amphitheatre, cinema and lecture theatre, performance space, artist studios and exhibition space. Associated workspaces, meeting areas, lounge areas and other amenities are to be provided throughout the ground floor.
 - First floor level upwards comprising dedicated educational facilities including library facilities, learning areas and teaching spaces.
 - Second floor level comprising staff / student foyer, offices, meeting rooms and collaboration spaces.
 - Third level comprising a multi-functional recreational sports court, with associated ancillary amenities, alongside an astronomy garden and BBQ area.
 - Roof level plant and services.
- Construction of internal driveway with hardstand area to provide 13 car parking spaces.
- Landscaping works to provide outdoor educational and recreational spaces.

This report responds to the SSD-64916225 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirement (SEARs) number #27 which was issued by the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure on 21st November 2023.

1.3 Vision for the development

The vision for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence is for the delivery of a facility from which to lead global discourse on Indigenous knowledge and for the place to provide a space where people of all ages, abilities and interests can explore and learn more about Indigenous culture and attend performances, talks and screenings. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will incorporate tactile and technology augments to transform access to cultural collections and heritage, as well as showcasing stories from Western Sydney.

The objectives of the proposed development are to:

- Provide opportunities for the community to connect with Indigenous culture and Country.
- Preserve Indigenous culture, promote cross-cultural learning and contribute to social inclusion and recognition in Western Sydney.
- Provide an accessible educational facility for Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents.
- Deliver a sustainable, high-quality development that is visually distinctive, has been informed by Connecting with Country principles at the forefront of its design ethos and meets the sustainability goals and aspirations of the University.

2.0 Assessment Requirements

This Consultation Outcomes Report addresses the following relevant Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), as identified in the table below.

Table 1 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements relevant to this report.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement	Documentation
27. Engagement Detail engagement undertaken and demonstrate how it was consistent with the Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects. Detail how issues raised and feedback provided have been considered and responded to in the project. In particular, applicants must consult with:	Consultation Outcomes Report
o the relevant Department assessment team.	Section 6.2
o any relevant local councils.	Section 6.3
o any relevant agencies (including the Western Parkland City Authority for development within the Western Parkland City).	Section 6.2
o the community.	Section 6.1
o if the development would have required an approval or authorisation under another Act but for the application of s 4.41 of the EP&A Act or requires an approval or authorisation under another Act to be applied consistently by s 4.42 of the EP&A Act, the agency relevant to that approval or authorisation	Section 6.5

3.0 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Approach

3.1 Strategic Engagement Principles

In order to develop trust with the community and stakeholders, WSU has adopted a genuine and proactive approach to engagement. In delivering this approach, WSU's community and stakeholder engagement process was:

- **Timely** – provided the community and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide important feedback prior to lodgement of the SSDA.
- **Genuine and constructive** – provided transparent and genuine opportunities for people to participate.
- **Accessible** – ensured it is easy and straight forward to provide feedback and provided multiple convenient options to provide that feedback.
- **Informative** – educated community and stakeholders on project elements, benefits, and constraints to draw out meaningful feedback.

3.2 Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects

The engagement process sought to capture an accurate understanding of key local issues in the community, identify potential ways to respond to areas of impact, and deliver clear communication between stakeholders and the project team.

The Engagement Strategy adhered to the Department of Planning and Environment's *Undertaking Engagement Guidelines for State Significant Projects (November 2021)* by:

- Engaging with relevant NSW Government agencies, Council, close neighbours, and targeted members of the community.
- Informing the surrounding community to the site about opportunities to consult with the project team.
- Explaining how community feedback will be considered and documented.
- Providing relevant information in plain English so that potential impacts and implications can be readily understood; and
- Providing channels of communication to gather feedback.

3.3 Alignment with IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum

The engagement process for this project sought to capture an accurate understanding of key local issues, identify how to respond to these, and deliver clear communication between stakeholders and the project team. To determine the appropriate level of engagement for each stakeholder, the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation has been applied, classifying stakeholder groups by their known and/or perceived levels of interest and influence on the project.

The following figure provides an overview of this spectrum.

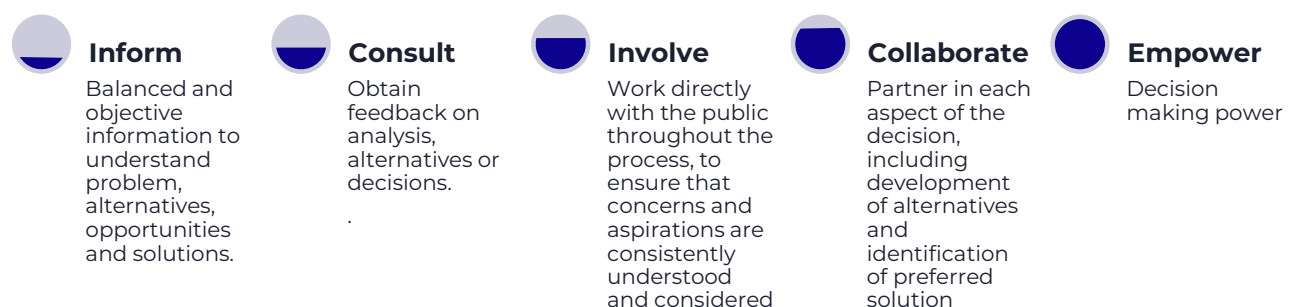


Figure 2 IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

Source: IAP2

4.0 Stakeholder Identification

A stakeholder analysis was undertaken to guide the engagement program. The below table sets out stakeholder groups identified, and how they were considered as part of the consultation strategy.

Stakeholder identification and mapping

Stakeholder	Key topics of interest	Level of engagement	Engagement methods
Western Sydney University			
Project Control Group (PCG)	• Project delivery timeline and status • Design and features of building, including public and communal shared spaces • Future operations of the Centre • Parking changes and arrangements • Operational/management considerations • Disruption to learning/teaching environment • Employment opportunities • Construction traffic, noise, dust, air quality • Access routes and traffic • Safety of works • Ecology	• Inform-Consult-Involve	• PCG meetings • Internal leadership briefing • Staff and student eDM • Staff intranet post • Access to enquiry 1800 number and email address • Online webinar • Website
The University Leadership • Vice-Chancellor Professor Barney Glover AO and Deputy Vice-Chancellors • Chancellor Professor Jennifer Westacott AO • Board of Trustees • Academic Senate • Board Councils • Board Committees			
The University Staff			
The University Students – current, future, alumni			
University Societies – Student Groups • Indigenous Student Council • Student Representative Council			
Community			
Immediate neighbours • Victoria Rd service Road dwellings • Wesley Employment Services – David Morgan Centre	• Bulk and scale, visual impact • Traffic and parking • Safety of works • Air quality and noise • Construction impacts • Operational impacts • Ecology	• Consult	• Letterbox drop • Online webinar • Access to enquiry 1800 number and email address • Website • Doorknock • SIA survey
Broader local community Residential areas: • Bridge Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, West Street, Second Street, First Street • Anderson Avenue, Rippon Avenue, Reserve Street, Dudley Street, Crowgey Street Commercial/industrial area: • Brodie Street, Mary Parade, Bridge Street	• Bulk and scale, visual impact • Traffic and parking • Safety of works • Air quality and noise • Construction impacts • Operational impacts • Ecology	• Consult	• Letterbox drop • Online webinar • Access to enquiry 1800 number and email address • Website • Doorknock • SIA survey
Sensitive receivers and target SIA stakeholders	• Construction and operational impacts • Local amenity and way of life	• Consult	• Doorknock • SIA survey

Stakeholder	Key topics of interest	Level of engagement	Engagement methods
- Residents and First Nations Stakeholders as part of SIA scoping study - May include – Milestones Early Learning Centre Grandview St, St Marina Early Learning Centre, Parramatta East Public School, Dundas Primary School, Nova Life Church, Heritage of Faith Church, Awesome Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Pennant St, Sovereign Grace Church Parramatta			- Access to enquiry 1800 number and email address - Website
Local advocacy groups North Parramatta Resident Action Group	- Bulk and scale, visual impact - Traffic and parking - Construction impacts - Operational impacts - Air quality and noise - Safety of works - Ecology	Inform	Monitor for enquiries
Elected Officials			
City of Parramatta Elected Officials - Clr Pierre Esber, Lord Mayor (Dundas Ward) - Clr Dr Patricia Prociv, Deputy Lord Mayor (Rosehill Ward) - Other elected Councillors	- Local planning compliance - Local Indigenous community involvement - Impacts to the local community including noise, congestion, traffic. - Neighbour impacts, e.g. views, shadowing, amenity impacts - Flooding and stormwater - Air quality and noise - Ecology - Green and open space provision - Public interest	Consult	Direct correspondence (to Mayor) and offer of briefing
Donna Davis, MP (ALP) State Member for Parramatta	- Alignment with policies and priorities - Local Indigenous community involvement - Ecologically sustainable design - Job creation	Consult	Direct correspondence and offer of briefing
Dr Andrew Charlton, MP (ALP) Federal Member for Parramatta	- Alignment with policies and priorities - Local Indigenous community involvement - Ecologically sustainable design - Job creation	Consult	Direct correspondence and offer of briefing
Paul Scully MP (ALP) Minister for Planning and Public Spaces	- Alignment with policies and priorities - Alignment with strategic planning and intent for university precinct	Inform	Monitor for enquiries
David Harris MP (ALP) Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty	- Benefits and impacts to Indigenous community - Centre's role in broader Indigenous programs, policies etc.	Inform	Monitor for enquiries

Stakeholder	Key topics of interest	Level of engagement	Engagement methods
Chris Minns MP (ALP) Premier of NSW	- Major projects planning and delivery - Announcements	Inform	Monitor for enquiries
Local Council			
City of Parramatta - General Manager, Gail Connolly - Director, City Strategy, Nicole Carnegie	- Local planning compliance - Alignment with strategic planning and intent for university precinct - Impacts to the local community including noise, congestion, traffic. - Flooding and Stormwater - Local benefits	Consult	Direct liaison, meetings and correspondence as required
Government Agencies			
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure: - Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary - David Gainsford, Deputy Secretary - Alan Bright, Director, State Significant Acceleration - Assessment Team – Nathan Stringer, Senior Planning Officer responsible for project	- Alignment with policies and priorities - Adherence to planning and design legislation - Consultation and engagement with relevant stakeholders	Involve	Direct liaison, meetings and correspondence as required
Government Architect NSW (GANSW) (via SDRP)	Design excellence	Consult	Direct liaison, SDRP meetings and correspondence as required
Transport for NSW (TfNSW) - Roads Team - Parramatta Light Rail Delivery Office	- Traffic, access, and parking – in particular heavy vehicle trips to and from the facility - Capacity of the state road networks and intersections in the vicinity of the site and the ability of the surrounding roads to cater for the proposal - Interface with and impacts to light rail	Consult	Direct liaison, meetings and correspondence as required
Aboriginal Affairs NSW	- Benefits and impacts to Indigenous community - Centre's role in broader Indigenous programs, policies etc.	Consult	Consultation as required by Aboriginal Engagement lead
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	- Alignment with policies and priorities - Environmental, sustainability, and potential contamination issues during design, construction and operation - Contaminated land - Impacts to identified local species	Consult	Notification of proposal and invitation to discuss project further with project team
Education NSW Relevant contact who manages strategic engagement between the University/Education NSW	- Higher education policy - Job growth, skills and employment - Research collaboration, innovation	Consult	Notification of proposal and invitation to discuss project further with project team

Stakeholder	Key topics of interest	Level of engagement	Engagement methods
Fire and Rescue NSW	- Ensuring new infrastructure meets standard requirements for safety and fire evacuation. - Ensure the safety in design and sensitive to local concerns, i.e., bushfires and fire evacuations etc.	Consult	Notification of proposal and invitation to discuss project further with project team
Heritage NSW	Design integration with broader University campus, including heritage buildings and overall character of campus	Consult	Notification of proposal and invitation to discuss project further with project team
State Emergency Services (SES)	- Ensuring project design, delivery and operational planning considers emergency response requirements - Site flooding and emergency protocols to manage risks, including evacuation procedures	Consult	Notification of proposal and invitation to discuss project further with project team
Service Providers and Public Authorities			
Services and Utility providers: - Sydney Water - Ausgrid	Potential impacts of the development on existing utility infrastructure and service provider assets surrounding the site.	Consult	Notification of proposal and invitation to discuss project further with project team
Heritage & First Nations			
Local Aboriginal community: - Registered Aboriginal Parties - Local Aboriginal Land Council - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative (ATSIC) Committee - The University Elders Advisory Committee	- Input into the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) - Considering support needs and improving outcomes for Aboriginal community - Potential for impact on cultural heritage or significant sites - How Aboriginal culture and heritage is reflected/ responded to in project design	Involve	- Consultation as required by ACHAR process - Consultative Committee meetings
Peak Bodies and Interest Groups			
Parramatta Chamber of Commerce	- Innovation and economic growth in the corridor - Design excellence - Precinct development	Inform	Monitor for enquiries
Industry Peak Bodies: - UDIA NSW - Property Council NSW - Real Estate Institute of NSW - Urban Taskforce			
Media			
Local outlets: Parramatta Adviser	- Issues in the public interest - Controversial or contested issues - Benefits for the local community and audiences	Inform	Monitor for media coverage and provide accurate responses to any enquiries

5.0 Engagement process

This section of the report outlines the tools and methods applied to deliver community and stakeholder engagement during the preparation of the SSDA.

5.1 Communication tools

The following table provides a summary of the tools and collateral that contributed to the engagement process.

Table 2 *Engagement tools and collateral*

Activity/Tool	Description	How engagement informed the project	Target Audience	Level of Engagement
Tools and Collateral				
Stakeholder & community invite letters	Letter emailed or distributed via letterbox drop informing stakeholders and the community about the project and inviting them to attend a consultation event.	Ensured that key stakeholders and local residents to the site are aware of the project and had the opportunity to attend an event and provide feedback.	Local residents and businesses, Key stakeholders	Inform
FAQs (internal)	FAQ document identifying key project issues and project team responses.	Ensured accurate, relevant, and consistent information is communicated to all impacted and interested stakeholders.	All	Inform
Project overview presentation	Detailed the objectives, vision, and key deliverables of the site. Used in the community webinar and stakeholder briefings.	Provided visual aids to stakeholders and the community during engagement events.	Key stakeholders, Community webinar attendees	Inform
Agency/authority notifications	Pre-lodgement notification email or letter to relevant agencies or authorities.	Informed key agencies and authorities about the project and invite them to meet with the team or find out more ahead of lodgement of SSDA.	NSW agencies and authorities	Inform
Project webpage update	Create updated web content on the existing project web page with information about SSDA process and upcoming consultation opportunities/enquiry channels.	Informed community and stakeholders about the project, status, consultation opportunities, and direct to public enquiry channels.	All	Inform
University stakeholder (staff and student) update – eDM	Digital notification via relevant University staff and student databases/channels to provide update on project and SSDS process and upcoming consultation opportunities.	Informed university stakeholders about the project, status, consultation opportunities, and direct to public enquiry channels.	University staff and students	Inform
University Intranet/ Viva Engage	Notice regarding upcoming consultation opportunity.	Informed staff members about the project status and invite attendance at consultation or enquiries via channels.	University staff	Inform
Media announcement	Statement/release from the Premier releasing winning design and provide update on the project.	Informed broader community about project status and design.	All	Inform

5.1.1 Community notification letter and invitation to webinar

A community notification letter was delivered to 292 letterboxes of surrounding residents and businesses on 18 March 2024. The letter included information about the proposal and invited community members to join a webinar information session with the project team or complete the SIA survey. A copy of this letter and the delivery radius can be found in **Appendix 1 and 2**.

5.1.2 Elected representatives briefing invitation letter

A letter was issued to Cr Pierre Esber, Lord Mayor (City of Parramatta), Ms Donna Davis MP (State Member for Parramatta) and Dr Andrew Charlton MP (Federal Member for Parramatta) via email on 26 March 2024. The letter provided an update on the proposal and invited the members to attend a dedicated briefing with the project team. A copy of these letters can be found in **Appendix 3**.

5.1.3 Agency outreach email

An email was delivered to the following agencies:

- Transport for NSW (05/04/2024)
- Endeavor Energy (15/04/2024)
- Fire and Rescue NSW (15/04/2024)

The email provided an overview of the proposal and invited the relevant team members to attend a briefing meeting with the project team should they wish to discuss the project ahead of lodgement. A copy of this email can be found in **Appendix 4**.

5.1.4 Staff and student eDM messages

Two eDM (electronic Direct Mail) messages were sent to staff and students on 21 March 2024 providing an update on the project and inviting recipients to attend the upcoming webinar or to get in touch with the project team with any feedback or questions. Copies of these eDMs can be found at **Appendix 5**.

5.1.5 Western Sydney University Viva Engage

Members of the project team posted seven updates on Western Sydney University's Viva Engage intranet platform. The post/s cumulatively received 2370 views. A copy of this post can be found at **Appendix 6**.

5.1.6 Media release

Western Sydney University published a media release on 6 March 2023 releasing the design of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence and providing an update on the project. A copy of this release can be found at **Appendix 7**.

5.1.7 Project web page

The project web page was updated on 18 March 2024 to provide details of consultation opportunities and links to the webinar registration page and SIA survey. Between 18 March 2024 and 6 May 2024 the page received 316 views, 242 unique visitors. A copy of the web page can be found at **Appendix 8**.

5.2 Engagement activities

The following table provides a summary of the engagement activities that contributed to the engagement process.

Table 3 *Engagement activities*

Activity/Tool	Description	How engagement informed the project	Target Audience	Level of Engagement
Activities				
Community Information Webinar	Hosted a 1-hour webinar for community members to learn about the project, meet the project team, provide feedback on key topics, and ask questions.	Provided a welcoming forum for community members to be able to find out more about the project and provide feedback.	Local community Immediate neighbours	Consult
SIA engagement activities – doorknock and survey	Survey and doorknock targeted at local residents to identify potential social impacts of the project and possible mitigation approaches.	Outcomes informed the Social Impact Assessment.	Local community Immediate neighbours	Consult
Stakeholder briefings	Invited key stakeholders to meet with the project team to learn about the project, provide feedback and ask questions.	Created an open dialogue between key local stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback throughout the project lifecycle.	Key stakeholders	Consult
1800 phone number and consultation email address	Established a project enquiry 1800 number, email address and enquiry database for stakeholders, and monitored and responded to enquiries up until lodgement.	Provided all stakeholders a direct point of contact for any enquiries and assisted them in understanding the project.	All	Consult

5.2.1 Public email addresses and 1800 number

A public email address (consultation@ethosurban.com) and phone number (1800 870 549) were set up to provide residents and stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback prior to or following the community webinar.

In addition to this, the Western Sydney University has established and monitors a project email address (indigenoustcentrefexcellenceproject@westernsydney.edu.au) which primarily receives enquiries from internal University staff and students.

Further details on the enquiries received is provided in **Section 6**.

5.2.2 Community engagement to inform Social Impact Assessment

As part of the research undertaken to inform the project's Social Impact Assessment, a survey and doorknock was undertaken to understand the various aspects of community life that may be affected by the project, how the project team can mitigate potential impacts, and how the project's benefits can be maximised. Analysis of the survey results can be found in the Social Impact Assessment prepared by Gyde.

5.3 Record of stakeholder meetings and correspondence

The following stakeholder meetings and briefings were undertaken during the preparation of the SSDA. Full details of stakeholder feedback and project team responses are provided in **Section 6**.

5.3.1 Local stakeholders

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
10.04.24	Neighbouring landowner (203, 205, 207 Victoria Road)	Meeting	To provide overview of project and discuss any details, feedback and concerns specifically related to his/her properties
20/02/24	Ampol	Meeting	Discuss the Indigenous Centre of Excellence design and proximity of the building to Ampol's in-ground services
July – August 2024	Ampol	Email correspondence	To verify completion of Pipeline Hazard Analysis

5.3.2 Design Excellence Consultation

The following meetings were undertaken to inform planning for the design competition brief.

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
28/07/23	Australian Institute of Architecture	Meeting	To brief the AIA on the proposed design competition process and design competition brief.
17/08/23	City of Ryde Council Reconciliation Action Working Group	Meeting	To provide a briefing on the Indigenous Centre of Excellence and an update on progress
09/08/23	Government Architect's Office	Meeting	To brief the GANSW on the proposed design competition process and design competition brief.
10/08/23	Government Architect's Office	Briefing Dillon Kombumerri	To brief the design competition selection committee chair – Dillon Kombumerri – on the proposed design competition process and design competition brief.
26/09/23	Australian Institute of Architects	Meeting	To provide the AIA with a design competition update and to discuss feedback on the design competition brief
11/02/24	Australian Institute of Architects	Meeting	To brief the Institute of the outcome of the design competition, including the process and the competition winning design.
12/03/24	NSW Government Architect Office	Meeting	To brief the Institute of the outcome of the design competition, including the process and the competition winning design.

5.3.3 State Government Agencies and Authorities

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
24/08/23	NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Meeting	To brief DPE on the project, planning risks and upcoming request for SEARs and planning approval
06/12/23	NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Meeting	To brief the Rosehill development team on the Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
05/04/24	Transport for NSW	Email correspondence	To provide an overview of project and opportunity to discuss prior to lodgement
15/04/24	Endeavour Energy	Email correspondence	To provide an overview of project and opportunity to discuss prior to lodgement
15/04/24	Fire and Rescue NSW	Email correspondence	To provide an overview of project and opportunity to discuss prior to lodgement
06/06/24	NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Meeting	To discuss Test of Adequacy (TOA) lodgement feedback including issues around traffic and parking
19/06/24	State Emergency Services (SES)	Email correspondence	To provide an opportunity to comment on Flood Impact Assessment and Emergency Response Plan

5.3.4 City of Parramatta

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
31/07/23	City of Parramatta Council	Meeting	To brief the City of Parramatta Council on the proposed design competition process and design competition brief.
18/09/23	City of Parramatta Council	Meeting	To provide briefing on the project, and an update on the progress of the design competition and the design competition brief
28/09/23	City of Parramatta Council	Meeting	To brief City of Parramatta Council on the project, planning risks and upcoming request for planning approval
13/02/24	City of Parramatta First Nations Advisory Committee meeting	Meeting	To brief the committee on the Indigenous Centre of Excellence and to provide an update on progress
05/04/2024	City of Parramatta Council	Email and briefing offer	To provide overview of project and offer opportunity for a briefing to the Council Traffic and Transport Management Team
22/04/2024	Traffic and Transport Management Team	Email and briefing offer	To provide overview of project and offer opportunity for a briefing to the Council Traffic and Transport Management Team
01/05/24	City of Parramatta Council	Pre-lodgement	To discuss the proposed ICOE development and proposed response to planning risks

5.3.5 Aboriginal stakeholder engagement

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
18/07/23	WSU Indigenous Staff and Students	Meeting	To inform WSU Indigenous Staff and Student on the project and progress.
20/07/23	WSU Elder's Advisory Committee	Meetings	To provide support and guidance on the project
24/07/23	- Functional Design Brief Workshop – Stream 1 Indigenous - Burramattagal and Dharug/Darug Elders and Knowledge Holders	Meeting	Meeting with key Burramattagal and Dharug/Darug Elders and Knowledge Holders to provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
02/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 1 – Indigenous	Meeting	Meeting with Indigenous staff and students to provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
17/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 1 – Indigenous	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
27/10/23	Walk on Country	Site Meeting	A walk on Country with a Darug Elder, the Indigenous Advisory Group and design competition teams
15/11/23	Western Sydney Creative Advisory Committee meeting	Meeting	To brief the committee on the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
8/12/24	Statutory bodies: - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation – Heritage NSW - Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council - The Registrar – Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 - The National Native Title Tribunal - Native Title Services Corporation Limited - The Local Land Services - Parramatta City Council	Notification letter	Request for names of Aboriginal people who may have an interest in the proposed project area and hold knowledge relevant to determining cultural significance
11/01/24	Stakeholders identified via statutory bodies	Email outreach	Invitation to register interest in community consultation for the project
31/01/24	Koori Mail readers	Public notice	Advising of project location and proposed development, and inviting registration from local Aboriginal people
22/03/24	Registered Aboriginal Parties: - AI Indigenous Services - Amanda Hickey Cultural Services - Butucarbin - Ginniderra - Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services - Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group - Ralph Hampton - Wailwan Aboriginal Group - Wori Woilywa	Formal letter	Request for comments on proposed project and methodology
10/04/24	- Registered Aboriginal Parties: Kamilaroi Yankuntjatjara Working Group, Wailwan Aboriginal Group, Konanggo Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services, Butucarbin - Aunty Fiona Towney, WSU - Curio Projects	ACHA Site Visit	Site visit with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) as required by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report

5.3.6 Internal stakeholders (Western Sydney University)

Date	Stakeholder/s	Activities	Purpose
20/07/23 - present	Project Working Group (PWG)	Meetings	To support and progress the project
20/07/23 - present	Project Control Group (PCG) Meetings	Meetings	To provide leadership, oversight and decision making to support the project
24/07/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 4 - Operations	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
24/07/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 2 - Cultural	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
31/07/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 3 – Teaching, Learning and Research	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
03/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 2 - Cultural	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
07/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 3 – Teaching, Learning and Research	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
07/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 4 – Operations	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
11/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 3 – Teaching, Learning and Research	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
14/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 3 – Teaching, Learning and Research	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
17/08/23	Functional Design Brief Workshop Stream 1 – Indigenous	Meeting	To provide input on the functional design requirements for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence
6/11/23	Vice Chancellor's Advisory Board	Meeting	To brief the University's Executive on the Indigenous Centre of Excellence and request endorsement of the design competition brief.

6.0 Summary of feedback received

The section below provides a summary of the key feedback received from the community and project stakeholders to date as well as details on how the project team has responded.

6.1 Community feedback

6.1.1 Community webinar

A community webinar was delivered on 25 March 2024. The webinar received 12 attendees from a total of 35 registrations. Details of feedback provided by attendees is provided in the table below.

Table 4 Community webinar feedback

Topic	Detail	Project Response
Parking	- Concerns that there will be inadequate parking as the project removes an existing car park on the campus. - Concern that parking will spill out onto nearby residential streets and that there are already issues with parking.	- Advised the University's campus planning for the Parramatta South Campus includes consideration of how people travel to, and around the campus, including parking arrangements, public transport, active transport, and University shuttle. - Advised the University is currently exploring options for the relocation of this car park, with a view to maintain, at a minimum, the existing number of parking spaces. Car park transition arrangements will be confirmed ahead of any construction beginning on the site.
Building operation and access	- Queries about the access arrangements to the rooftop basketball courts and whether it would be accessible to the broader community. - Queries around student involvement in the operation of the building. - Queries around security and privacy measures due to open-air nature of the building.	- This will be considered as part of the Operational Management Plan prepared for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. - The Project Team noted that student involvement in operations is something that is being investigated given the significance of the Project. - There will be several secure access points however the amphitheatre and gathering space will be naturally ventilated and accessible at all hours. It was noted that security and privacy measures would be integrated into the design and would be considered as a part of the Operational Management Plan.
Building siting and design	- Concern around the building being built on a flood prone site. - Queries around how flooding is being considered as part of the building design. - Queries around how much teaching space will be incorporated into the new building. - Queries around the location of the building next to Victoria Rd opposed to by the Parramatta River in the southern part of the campus.	- The Project Team advised the design is still at concept stage, and there's still an important piece of technical work to be done to understand flooding impacts and ensure the design responds to these. - While the project is at concept stage, key elements of the design are envisaged to support flood resilience: the building itself will be raised above the '1-in-100' year flood level, and the site is being designed to all water to pass through (and will include reinstating a creek that was originally on the land). - The proposed design seeks to return the site to Country, and in doing so seeks to integrate the natural flow of water into the design. - There will be three teaching and learning spaces within the building including a lecture theatre and teaching rooms. - While alternate locations for the building were investigated, the University made the decision that this site was the preferred location for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence due to its prominence and significance at the campus. This

Topic	Detail	Project Response
		aligns with the significance of the building and its purpose, as well as the site's potential to act as a 'front door' to the University.
Construction	Queries around construction timeline and anticipated commencement.	Dependent on planning approval timelines, it is anticipated that construction will commence in early 2025 following DA approval in late 2024.
Cost of development and funding	Queries around the funding mechanisms for project and whether funding is confirmed.	The Project will be funded by the WestInvest Fund, administered by the NSW State Government. Funding has been confirmed and allocated for this specific project.
Building defects	Queries around current defects on the Parramatta South campus and the reporting process for this.	- The Project Team noted this and explained that WSU has a procedure in place to address defects around the campus. - The webinar participant was directed to a staff member from WSU's building management team.
Sustainability	- Concerns around the heating and cooling costs of the building. - Queries around whether there will be air conditioning.	- WSU is targeting a 6-star energy rating and has engaged a team of experienced engineers to assist with this. - It was noted that sustainability initiatives have been factored in the total development costs. - It was confirmed that the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be air conditioned.
Consultation	- Queries around the availability of the webinar presentation materials. - Queries around the details of the Social Impact Assessment Survey.	- The Project Team noted that much of the presentation content is available on the project web page, and information on the SSDA process is available on the DPHI website. The webinar presentation itself will be appended to the Consultation Outcomes Report and will be publicly available once the application is lodged. - A community survey is currently being undertaken to help inform the project's Social Impact Assessment. Webinar participants were emailed a link to this survey after the session.

6.1.2 1800 number and consultation email

Throughout the March-April pre-lodgement consultation period, six enquiries were received via the 1800 phone number and consultation email address. Details of these enquiries are provided in the table below.

Table 5 1800 number and consultation email feedback

Topic	Detail	Project Response
Consultation	Concern around the reach of consultation/notifications, noting that while tenants or occupants may be aware, landlords may not be.	- The Project Team noted nearby residents and businesses were letterboxed, which reaches building occupants, however not all landlord information is readily available. - Dedicated one-on-one meeting was undertaken with a nearby landlord to provide an overview of the project and seek feedback. They were also invited to participate in the community survey that will inform the Social Impact Assessment.
Parking	Concerns around the parking arrangements and students parking on local streets, as well as issues with peak traffic periods impacting local streets.	- Advised the University's campus planning for the Parramatta South Campus includes consideration of how people travel to, and around the campus, including parking arrangements, public transport, active transport, and University shuttle. - Advised the University is currently exploring options for the relocation of this car park, with a

Topic	Detail	Project Response
		view to maintain, at a minimum, the existing number of parking spaces. Advised that car park transition arrangements will be confirmed ahead of any construction beginning on the site.
Site selection	Query around why the specific site was selected.	The University made the decision that this site was the preferred location for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence due to its prominence and significance at the campus, in alignment with the significance of the building and its purpose, as well as the site's potential to act as a 'front door' to the University.
Flooding	Expressed concern with the site being flood prone and that the development will further exacerbate flooding issues onsite and for surrounding properties.	- Advised the project is still at concept stage, and there's still an important piece of technical work to be done to understand flooding impacts and ensure the design responds to these. - While the project is at concept stage, key elements of the design are envisaged to support flood resilience: the building itself will be raised above the '1-in-100' year flood level, and the site is being designed to all water to pass through (and will include reinstating a creek that was originally on the land).
Media Opportunities	Query around the potential to work in partnership with NITV to promote the project	Advised to contact relevant member of the Project Team to discuss the opportunity further.

6.1.3 Neighbouring landowner

A one-on-one meeting was held with the owner of neighbouring properties, at 203, 205 and 207 Victoria Road, Rydalmere. Details of feedback provided is provided in the table below.

Table 6 *Community webinar feedback*

Topic	Detail	Project Response
Parking	- Concerns that there will be inadequate parking as the project removes an existing car park. - Comment that students commonly park in front of properties, and concern that the project will make this worse.	Advised the University is currently exploring options for the relocation of this car park, with a view to maintain, at a minimum, the existing number of parking spaces. Advised that car park transition arrangements will be confirmed ahead of any construction beginning on the site.

6.2 State Government agencies and authorities

The project team undertook consultation with key State Government agencies and authorities, including various correspondence, meetings and briefings. Details of key feedback raised is included in the table below.

Table 7 Agency and authority feedback

Topic	Detail	Response/outcome
Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure		
Planning process	- Feedback provided on planning risks and items that need to be considered in the scoping report for SEARs. - Post Test of Adequacy briefing meeting	- Incorporated feedback into the scoping report for SEARs. - Incorporated feedback into EIS.
Transport for NSW		
Traffic Impact	A meeting request was made by TTW Engineers on 05/04/2024	No response was received.
Fire and Rescue NSW		
Process	Fire Consultant contacted Fire and Rescue NSW Fire seeking clarification around the process for development on the University Campus	Advised the DA and SSDA processes here are the same
Endeavour Energy		
Network capacity	Pre-lodgement clarification around the capacity of existing HV cables, existing maximum electrical loads. Sought input surrounding the impact of the new development on existing assets and any design suggests.	Feedback was incorporated into the Electrical Consultants report.
State Emergency Services (SES)		
Further consultation	Requests further consultation as the project progresses through SSD process	University will review and consider all details of SES feedback, and respond through SSD process

6.3 City of Parramatta feedback

The project team undertook consultation with City of Parramatta, including one formal meetings/briefings. Details of key feedback raised by Council is included in the table below.

Table 8 City of Parramatta feedback

Topic	Detail	Project Response
Planning process and consultation methodology	- Initial feedback provided on the proposed strategy - Feedback provided suggesting a meeting with City of Parramatta Council's First Nations and planning representatives - Feedback provided on planning risks and items that need to be considered in the development application. Also, a request to present at the next First National Advisory Committee meeting.	- Feedback was incorporated into the planning for the design competition. - Meeting arranged. - Incorporated feedback into the development of the Environmental Impact Statement. Agreed to present at the next First Nations Advisory Committee meeting.
Project support	Project supported by the committee	Will provide update at future meetings
Parking	Queries around parking provision	The Project Team confirmed that a separate parking on Parramatta South Campus will be provided to offset the parking loss from the ICoE

Topic	Detail	Project Response
		project, and that this separate parking will be sought through a separate approvals process.

6.4 Aboriginal stakeholder feedback

Engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders was undertaken as part of the project's Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This feedback has been considered and incorporated in to the built form and landscaping design of the ICoE. A summary of the feedback is included in the table below.

Consultation was also undertaken with local First Nations knowledge holders between June 2023 to October 2023 as part of the development of the ICoE Cultural Design Brief.

Table 9 *Aboriginal stakeholder feedback*

Topic	Detail
Trees	Suggestion that more trees are incorporated around the lone melaleuca tree in the centre of the car park to support the growth and resilience. Suggestions that the melaleuca seeds could be collected to preserve its heritage and continue its line.
Retention of biodiversity	Incorporate traditional vegetation local to Country to encourage birds and insects and increase biodiversity such as ring trees, Moreton Bay figs and quandong trees.
Acknowledgement of various mobs across NSW	The potential for the site to incorporate other various cultures in addition to the focus on Darug Country heritage. In that it is design to be a safe space for mobs of all Country and show some representation for all groups representative of trading system between different Indigenous groups as they shared resources and stories/culture.
Recommendations during excavation	- Have a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony before the start of test excavations, and a smoking ceremony to close out once excavations are finished. - Have both male and female RAPs present on site in the case that either men's or women's business artefacts/archaeological features are identified.

6.5 Internal University feedback

Engagement with University stakeholders including students, staff and leadership was undertaken during the pre-lodgement period. In addition, feedback from University stakeholders was received via the University's direct project team email address (communications@info.westernsydney.edu.au during March and April). No direct feedback was received from students, staff and leaderships via this communication channel.

7.0 Conclusion and next steps

This Consultation Outcomes Report provides a succinct overview of the communications and stakeholder engagement activities Western Sydney University undertook prior to lodgement of the SSDA for the proposed development of The Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

In accordance with the SEARs requirements for engagement, the University has implemented a strategy to inform local residents and businesses, staff and students, Aboriginal stakeholders, and key government agencies about the proposal. This has not only ensured that the community has a clear understanding of the proposal but has also provided an important mechanism to gather feedback before lodgement of the SSDA.

Feedback has provided further information on topics including traffic and parking issues, flooding management, sustainability, project design, impacts to university campus operations, and management of construction and operational impacts to project neighbours.

The SSDA will be placed on Public Exhibition by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, with the opportunity for interested stakeholders to provide further feedback through the formal submission process which will be responded to by the University, as the Applicant.

Western Sydney University will continue to provide opportunities for local residents, businesses, staff and students, government agencies and key local stakeholders to make enquiries and provide feedback as the project progresses.

8.0 Appendices

8.1 Community notification letter



18 March 2024

Dear neighbour,

RE: Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence – upcoming State Significant Development Application and community consultation opportunities

We are writing to inform you about the proposed development of an Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, at Victoria Road, Rydalmere.

Located on Darug Country, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will include cultural, education and community spaces designed and led by Indigenous peoples to nurture connections to Country, and to create a focal point where all community members can engage, learn, and celebrate Indigenous cultures. The project has been planned in partnership with Indigenous Elders, communities and organisations to ensure it reflects their aspirations and needs, and creates a space that is authentic, inclusive, and culturally sensitive.

The University is proud to share the details of this project with the local community and invites nearby residents and businesses to join upcoming consultation opportunities to learn more.

Project status

A national **design competition** has recently been undertaken to select an iconic design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Details of the design are available on the University's website, and architectural plans will be included in the project's planning application.

Western Sydney University is currently preparing a **State Significant Development Applications (SSDA)**, which will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The SSDA will seek consent for the design, construction, and operation of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

Site map

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence is proposed to be developed on Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, as identified on the below map.



State Significant Development Application

The SSDA will seek consent for the construction of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, comprising:

- Ground floor – community spaces and shared facilities, including meeting and function spaces, performance theatre, cinema and exhibition galleries;
- First floor – educational facilities, including a library and teaching rooms for University students and broader community members;
- Second floor – student centre, research and staff offices; and
- Rooftop level – multi-purpose sports court and rooftop garden.

The SSDA also seeks consent for:

- Site preparation including earthworks;
- Landscaping works including tree planting and drainage infrastructure;
- Inground building services works, utilities, and building foundation works.

Consultation with the local community

Western Sydney University is committed to ensuring the community is consulted throughout the process. We have engaged Ethos Urban and Cyde Consulting to help support our community consultation for this project and ensure we have captured your feedback ahead of lodgement in the coming weeks.

Attend the Community Information Webinar

We invite you to attend an online Community Information Session to learn more about the project, provide feedback, and ask any questions you may have.

Further details of the webinar are provided below, and registration via the QR code is essential.

Date: Monday 25 March 2024

Time: 5.30pm – 6.30pm

Where: Online via Zoom (you will receive an email following registration)

RSVP: Via QR code by Friday 22 March 2024.



Complete the Resident Survey

The project team is also conducting a five minute Resident Survey to inform the project's Social Impact Assessment. The Social Impact Assessment is a study which helps the project team understand the various aspects of community life that may be affected by the project, how we can best mitigate potential impacts, and how we can maximise the project's benefits. The survey is optional, and completely anonymous.

Where: Online via Survey Monkey – scan the QR code

When: Survey open until Monday 8 April 2024.



A member of the project team will also be visiting households close to the site to conduct **face to face interviews** from 2nd to 5th of April, between 3.30-7pm. There is no need to register for these, however if you are home when a team member visits, these interviews will provide an additional opportunity to provide feedback on the project.

In the coming months, there will be the opportunity to provide formal feedback during the public exhibition of the SSDA, which will be managed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

For more information about the project please visit <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/western-growth/ICOE>. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team at consultation@ethosurban.com or on 1800 870 549 during business hours Monday – Friday.

Yours sincerely,

WSU Indigenous Centre of Excellence Project Team

Map **Satellite**

Oatlands Public School

A40

Old Saleyards Reserve

Barton Pk

Parramatta City Tennis (ParraTennis)

Greens Ave

Prince St

Tulog Ave

Holmes Ave

Wyuna Pl

Bells Rd

Kissing Point Rd

Calder Rd

Rippon Ave

Joseph St

Chudleigh St

Park Rd

Doyle Ground

Albert St E

Webb St

Brabyn St

Mason St

Grose St

Macarthur St

Wandsworth St

Gore St

Morton St

Pemberton St

Irving St

Western Sydney University Parramatta

First St

West St

Second St

Third St

Western Sydney University Parramatta

Railway St

Alan St

Clyde St

Euston St

A40

Holy Name of Mary

Rydalmere Pk

9 Degrees Parramatta

MANAGEMYPST

The current letterbox count is: 292
 Business letterbox count is: 98
 Show businesses on map? ☐
 The confidence level for this is low

Google

8.3 Elected representative and Councillor letters

Letter to Cr Pierre Esben, Lord Mayor, City of Parramatta

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



26 March 2024

Cr Pierre Esber
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta

Via email: lordmayor@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Dear Cr Esber,

RE: Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence – project update and community consultation

We are writing to share details of the proposed Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, at Victoria Road, Rydalmere. As a courtesy ahead of upcoming pre-lodgement community consultation activities we would like to provide you with some information about the project.

Background

Located on Darug Country, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will include cultural, education and community spaces designed and led by Indigenous peoples to nurture connections to Country, and to create a focal point where all community members can engage, learn, and celebrate Indigenous cultures. The project has been planned in partnership with Indigenous Elders, communities and organisations to ensure it reflects their aspirations and needs, and creates a space that is authentic, inclusive, and culturally sensitive.

Site map

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence is proposed to be developed on Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, as identified in the below map.



Western Sydney University
ABN 53 014 069 482 CRICOS Provider No. 00467K
Locked Bag 1797 Penrith NSW 2751 Australia
westernsydney.edu.au

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



Project status

A national design competition has recently been undertaken to select an iconic design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Details of the design are available on The University's website, and architectural plans will be included in the project's planning application.

Western Sydney University is currently preparing a **State Significant Development Applications (SSDA)**, which will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The SSDA will seek consent for the design, construction, and operation of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

State Significant Development Application

The SSDA will seek consent for the construction of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, comprising:

- Ground floor – community spaces and shared facilities, including meeting and function spaces, performance theatre, cinema and exhibition galleries;
- First floor – educational facilities, including a library and teaching rooms for University students and broader community members;
- Second floor – student centre, research and staff offices; and
- Rooftop level – multi-purpose sports court and rooftop garden.

The SSDA also seeks consent for:

- Site preparation including earthworks;
- Landscaping works including tree planting and drainage infrastructure; and
- Inground building services works, utilities, and building foundation works.

Community consultation

Consultation with the local community and university stakeholders is being undertaken ahead of lodgement of the SSDA. Earlier this week, we notified local residents and businesses, as well as university staff and students, sharing project details and inviting them to attend a Community Information Webinar and/or to participate in a short survey.

Western Sydney University and the broader project team are proud to be delivering this transformational project, which will create a place where contemporary Indigenous expression thrives, knowledge is shared, and connections are made. Working closely with local Aboriginal Elders and stakeholders, it is envisaged that the project will highlight the region's deep connection to Indigenous people, and create a valuable focal point for all members of the community in Western Sydney and beyond.

If you would like further information or to organise a meeting with the project team, please contact Thomas Klobucar, Project Director at t.klobucar@westernsydney.edu.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Parasiris

Vice-President Infrastructure and Commercial
Western Sydney University

Western Sydney University
ABN 53 014 069 882 CRICOS Provider No. 00607K
Locked Bag 1797 Penrith NSW 2751 Australia
westernsydney.edu.au

**WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**



26 March 2024

Ms Donna Davis MP
State Member for Parramatta
90 George Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Via email: parramatta@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Davis,

RE: Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence – project update and community consultation

Thank you for attending Western Sydney University's recent event to unveil the winning design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. We are writing to provide an update on the project's planning process and inform you of upcoming pre-lodgement community consultation activities.

Project update

Following the outcome of the national design competition, Western Sydney University is now preparing a **State Significant Development Applications (SSDA)**, which will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The SSDA will seek consent for the design, construction, and operation of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

The SSDA will seek consent for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence building, comprising:

- Ground floor – community spaces and shared facilities, including meeting and function spaces, performance theatre, cinema and exhibition galleries;
- First floor – educational facilities, including a library and teaching rooms for University students and broader community members;
- Second floor – student centre, research and staff offices; and
- Rooftop level – multi-purpose sports court and rooftop garden.

The SSDA also seeks consent for:

- Site preparation including earthworks;
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Community consultation

Consultation with the local community and university stakeholders is being undertaken ahead of lodgement of the SSDA. Earlier this week, we notified local residents and businesses, as

well as university staff and students, sharing project details and inviting them to attend a Community Information Webinar and/or to participate in a short survey.

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ABN 53 014 069 880 CRICOS Provider No. 00907K
Locked Bag 1797 Penrith NSW 2751 Australia
westernsydney.edu.au

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Western Sydney University and the broader project team are proud to be delivering this transformational project, which will create a place where contemporary Indigenous expression thrives, knowledge is shared, and connections are made. Working closely with local Aboriginal Elders and stakeholders, it is envisaged that the project will highlight the region's deep connection to Indigenous people, and create a valuable focal point for all members of the community in Western Sydney and beyond.

We will continue to keep you informed as the project progresses. If you would like further information on the planning or consultation process, or to organise a meeting with members of the project team, please contact Thomas Klobucar, Project Director at t.klobucar@westernsydney.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Parasiris
Vice-President Infrastructure and Commercial
Western Sydney University

**WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**



26 March 2024

Dr Andrew Charlton MP
Federal Member for Parramatta
Shops 1 & 2, 25 Smith Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Via email: Andrew.Charlton.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Charlton,

RE: Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence – project update and community consultation

We are writing to share details of the proposed Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, at Victoria Road, Rydalmere. As a courtesy ahead of upcoming pre-lodgement community consultation activities we would like to provide you with some information about the project.

Background

Located on Darug Country, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will include cultural, education and community spaces designed and led by Indigenous peoples to nurture connections to Country, and to create a focal point where all community members can engage, learn, and celebrate Indigenous cultures. The project has been planned in partnership with Indigenous Elders, communities and organisations to ensure it reflects their aspirations and needs, and creates a space that is authentic, inclusive, and culturally sensitive.

Site map

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence is proposed to be developed on Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, as identified in the below map.



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WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



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Consultation with the local community and university stakeholders is being undertaken ahead of lodgement of the SSDA. Earlier this week, we notified local residents and businesses, as well as university staff and students, sharing project details and inviting them to attend a Community Information Webinar and/or to participate in a short survey.

Western Sydney University and the broader project team are proud to be delivering this transformational project, which will create a place where contemporary Indigenous expression thrives, knowledge is shared, and connections are made. Working closely with local Aboriginal Elders and stakeholders, it is envisaged that the project will highlight the region's deep connection to Indigenous people, and create a valuable focal point for all members of the community in Western Sydney and beyond.

If you would like further information or to organise a meeting with the project team, please contact Thomas Klobucar, Project Director at t.klobucar@westernsydney.edu.au. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Parasiris
Vice-President Infrastructure and Commercial
Western Sydney University

Western Sydney University
ABN 53 014 069 880 CRICOS Provider No. 00967K
Locked Bag 1797 Penrith NSW 2751 Australia
westernsydney.edu.au

8.4 Agency briefing email

An email with the below content was used a template for consultant to send to the relevant agencies:

- Transport for NSW
- Endeavor Energy
- Fire and Rescue NSW

Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence

To

Reply

Reply All

Forward

...

None

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to share details of the proposed Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, at Victoria Road, Rydalmere.

The University is currently preparing a **State Significant Development Applications (SSDA)**, which will be submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in April / May 2024. The SSDA will seek consent for the design, construction, and operation of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the project and seek input and feedback prior to formal lodgement.

It would be greatly appreciated f you could please provide the contact details of the relevant representative so that a meeting can be arranged.

Best regards,

Thomas Klobucar | Project Director
Division of Infrastructure and Commercial
Hawkesbury campus, located on Darug Country
M: 0410 562 505
westernsydney.edu.au

PROJECT DETAILS:

Located on Darug Country, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will include cultural, education and community spaces designed and led by Indigenous peoples to nurture connections to Country, and to create a focal point where all community members can engage, learn, and celebrate Indigenous cultures. The project has been planned in partnership with Indigenous Elders, communities and organisations to ensure it reflects their aspirations and needs, and creates a space that is authentic, inclusive, and culturally sensitive.



The Indigenous Centre of Excellence is proposed to be developed on Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus, as identified in the below map.



A national **design competition** has recently been undertaken to select an iconic design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Details of the design are available on The University's website <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/western-growth/ICOE>, and architectural plans will be included in the project's planning application.

The SSDA will seek consent for the construction of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, comprising:

- Ground floor – community spaces and shared facilities, including meeting and function spaces, performance theatre, cinema and exhibition galleries;
- First floor – educational facilities, including a library and teaching rooms for University students and broader community members;
- Second floor – student centre, research and staff offices; and
- Rooftop level – multi-purpose sports court and rooftop garden.
- Site preparation including earthworks;
- Landscaping works including tree planting and drainage infrastructure;
- Inground building services works, utilities, and building foundation works.

8.5 Staff and student eDMs



Dear Staff and Students,
Planning is continuing for the transformational Indigenous Centre of Excellence, to be built on Darug land at our Parramatta South campus.

You may have seen the recent outcome of our national design competition, which identified an iconic design for the new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. The next step for the project is to seek planning permission for this proposed design.

Planning process

Western Sydney University is currently preparing a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) to seek approval for the construction and operation of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. This application will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

As part of this process, the project team is delivering an online Community Information Session for staff, students and the local community to learn more about the project, provide feedback and ask questions.

We have engaged Ethos Urban to support this consultation process, and to ensure we have captured your feedback ahead of lodgement of the SSDA in the coming weeks.

Join a Community Information Session

We invite you to attend our online Community Information Session (via Zoom) on Monday 25 March at 5.30 – 6.30pm.

Registration is essential – please visit the [sign-up link](#), or contact the team at consultation@ethosurban.com or by calling 1800 870 549 for assistance.

For more information on the project status, design competition, and to see the latest images, visit the [Indigenous Centre of Excellence project webpage](#).

Regards,

Bill Parasiris

Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial

More about the Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Strategically positioned on the current P1 site at Parramatta South, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a dynamic space where culture, knowledge, and community intersect. As part of the project plan we are investigating all avenues to not only to maintain but enhance the current number of parking bays throughout the campus precinct.

We're also developing the Parramatta South Place Making Strategy, a comprehensive initiative that will meticulously address all facets of transport, parking, and connectivity within our campus precincts.

We look forward to engaging with you further to seek your feedback and keep you informed as work progresses.

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[E-Update](#)

[Viva Engage](#)

[Staff Homepage](#)



8.6 Western Sydney University Viva Engage intranet post



Naomi Bell

Mar 13 • Edited • @8

Seen by 243 ...

We kicked off March with an exciting event to unveil the design of the **Indigenous Centre of Excellence** to be located on the Parramatta South campus.

The design is guided by Country and brings to life a vision for a community-centric, transformational building that integrates Indigenous knowledges, featuring a new state-of-the-art theatre and cinema, exhibition galleries, teaching and learning facilities and Indigenous discovery space.

For videos, photos and more information [see here](#)

Chancellor Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Barney Glover AO and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership Professor Michelle Trudgett unveiled the design, joined by the Hon. Chris Minns, Premier of NSW, members of the University's Elders Advisory Committee, key Indigenous stakeholders and other University leaders and staff.





Michelle Trudgett

Mar 6

Seen by 510 ...

I'm absolutely thrilled to share the design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence at WSU. The biggest congratulations to Srah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB), Peter Stutchbury Architecture and Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, with Uncle Dean Kelly, Hill Thalys Architecture and Flux Consult. I'm looking very forward to opening the doors and welcoming everyone into the Indigenous Centre of Excellence in 2026. Many thanks to everyone who is helping me bring this iconic building to life.

[Western Sydney University reveals Indigenous Centre of Excellence design | Western Sydney University](#)

Western Sydney University reveals Indigenous Centre of Excellence design | Western Sydney University

/

www.westernsydney.edu.au

Love

Comment

Share

You and 53 others

[Show 6 previous comments](#)



Bill Parasiris

Mar 20

Seen by 254 ...

We're excited to be progressing planning for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence, to be built on Darug land at our Parramatta South campus.

You may have seen the recent images shared on our [website](#), showcasing the winning design. The next step for the project is for the University to seek planning permission for this proposed design.

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be strategically positioned on the current P1 site at Parramatta South. A parking solution is a part of the project plan, we are committed to investigating and rigorously explore all avenues to not only maintain but enhance the current number of parking bays throughout the campus precinct. Concurrently, we are embarking on the development of the Parramatta South Place Making Strategy, a comprehensive initiative that will meticulously address all facets of transport, parking, and connectivity within our campus precinct.

Throughout this process, we will actively engage with stakeholder groups to solicit invaluable insights, ensuring a robust and inclusive strategy. Rest assured, as we finalise the details, transparent communication channels will be maintained with all students, staff, and community users.

If you have questions please attend our upcoming Community Information Webinar on Monday 25 March 5:30 – 6:30pm if you would like to learn more – registration is essential, and you can [sign up here](#).





Michelle Trudgett

Mar 10

Seen by 276 ...

Last week we unveiled the incredible design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence with the NSW Premier Chris Minns in attendance. I'm so pleased to share images of the building with you all - this is going to reshape Indigenous education for many generations to follow.

<https://youtu.be/mZ5x30eYmFg>



Like

Comment

Share

You and 34 others



Ingrid Dernee

Mar 11

Wow. This is so impressive and wonderful. So fantastic to see. Thank you for sharing.



Alyce Coleman

Apr 16 • Edited

Seen by 97 ...

Service Scoop #30

Service Unplugged with Michelle Trudgett

Tune in on Thursday for the next episode of Service Unplugged. We're thrilled to host Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership for a yarn about her portfolio and the exciting developments around the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Don't miss it!



Alyce Coleman

Apr 18 • @1

Seen by 77 ...

It's time for the next episode of Service Unplugged. This week we have [Michelle Trudgett](#), Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership. Michelle shares insights into her portfolio and the exciting developments around the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Don't miss out, tune in now on [Spotify](#).



Like Comment Share

Alpha Possamai-Inesedy and 4 others



Michelle Trudgett

Feb 8, 2023 • @6

Seen by 599 ...

I am thrilled to announce that the Parramatta South campus will soon be home to Westerns iconic new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. I welcome the NSW Government's announcement of \$78.5 million from the WestInvest program to help establish this important landmark building as it will make a significant contribution to our communities for many generations. Many thanks to everyone who played a part in making this happen.

[Western Sydney University's iconic new Indigenous Centre of Excellence to connect people and place | Western Sydney University](#)

Like Comment Share

Heather Horst and 109 others

Show 7 previous comments



Moera Tufunga Feb 11, 2023

Well deserved 🙌🙌🙌 Creating further access points to widening participation across Greater Western Sydney regions 🙌🙌 This is the dream! Congratulations 🙌🙌 This story MATTERSDD

Like Comment Share

1



Sandra Phillips Feb 13, 2023

Such positive news, congratulations Michelle and all who worked alongside of you to make this happen. All best moving forward!

Like Comment Share

1



Barney Glover

Mar 8

Seen by 314 ...

Dear colleagues,

There has been a lot of movement and activity across our campuses this week as we welcomed students to the start of Autumn semester and with a number of events also taking place at the same time.

Tuesday marked an important milestone in our efforts on Indigenous advancement at Western. It was an honour to join the NSW Premier, the Hon Chris Minns, the Chancellor, Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, Professor Michelle Trudgett and members of our Indigenous community for the official unveiling of the design of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. The winning design team, Sarah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB), Peter Stutchbury Architecture and Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, with Uncle Dean Kelly, Hill Talis Architecture and Flux Consult, have delivered a visually stunning representation of Country. Once complete, the Centre will be transformational and will have impact on an international scale, recognising and supporting Indigenous knowledge, history and advancement.

8.7 Western Sydney University LinkedIn posts

Michelle Trudgett • 1st
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President Indigenous...
2mo • 🌐

I'm absolutely thrilled to share the design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Western Sydney University. The biggest congratulations to Sarah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB), Peter Stutchbury Architecture and Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, with Uncle Dean Kelly, Hill Thalys Architecture and Flux Consult. I'm looking very forward to opening the doors and welcoming everyone into the Indigenous Centre of Excellence in 2026. Many thanks to everyone who is helping me bring this iconic building to life.

<https://lnkd.in/g8NmEmyM>



Western Sydney University reveals Indigenous Centre of Excellence design
westernsydney.edu.au • 4 min read

👍❤️ You and 173 others 11 comments • 8 reposts

Bill Parasiris • 2nd
Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial at ...
2mo • Edited • 🌐

I am thrilled to announce that the design for the Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence was announced on 5 March 2024 by the Chancellor Professor **Jennifer Westacott AO**, Premier **Chris Minns** and Vice-Chancellor **Professor Barney Glover AO**.

The Estate Planning Team (**Michelle Lee**, **Thomas Klobucar** and others) have worked closely with Professor **Michelle Trudgett**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Vice President, Indigenous Leadership, to deliver on her aspiration of an iconic building for Western Sydney to enjoy. Congratulations must go to Sarah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB), Peter Stutchbury Architecture and Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, with Uncle Dean Kelly, Hill Thalys Architecture and Flux Consult for creating this amazing design.

The Centre will be a state-of-the-art facility and will be accessible to the region's schools, business and communities, as a place of discovery and engagement with Indigenous cultural programs. It will incorporate tactile and technology augments to transform access to cultural collections and heritage, as well as showcasing stories from Western Sydney. These facilities will enable the sharing and preservation of Indigenous Australian culture, establishing the region as the forefront of Indigenous education, employment and research and providing innovative and immersive opportunities for more active community participation in Indigenous arts and cultural activities.

Media release can be found here: - https://lnkd.in/gm_wYakD

Link for the video: <https://lnkd.in/gpstXuET>



Western Sydney University reveals Indigenous Centre of Excellence design
westernsydney.edu.au • 4 min read

👍❤️ Thomas Klobucar and 72 others 1 comment • 2 reposts

Bill Parasiris • 2nd
Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial at ...
1mo • 🌐

+ Follow ...

I am humbled by the privilege and honour to be part of this amazing project. This will make a positive difference to the people of Western Sydney!

Michelle Trudgett • 1st
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President Indigenous Leadershi...
1mo • Edited • 🌐

Sharing this video from the design reveal of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence at **Western Sydney University**. I'm so proud of what we are creating for many generations to follow. Congratulations aga ...see more



Indigenous Centre of Excellence - Design Unveiling Event (5 March 2024)
youtube.com

👍❤️ You and 48 others 1 repost

Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB)
6,378 followers
2mo • Edited • 🌐

+ Follow

Western Sydney University has revealed the design for its transformational Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Designed by **Sarah Lynn Rees**, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB), Peter Stutchbury Architecture and **Jane Irwin** Landscape Architecture, with Uncle Dean Kelly, **Hill Thalys** Architecture and Flux Consult, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be based at the Parramatta South campus on Darug land.

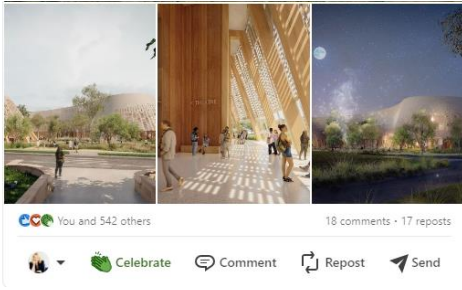
Guided by Country, the design brings to life a vision for a community-centric, transformational building that integrates Indigenous knowledges.

Inspired by the form and safety of the mangroves and veiled by a woven facade, the design acts as a canvas within which human and non-human kin can re-connect.

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will target a 6-star Green Star rating and feature a mass timber structure using Australian hardwoods. It prioritises Indigenous and Country-focused materials and suppliers. The facade will be constructed using clay sourced directly from Country.

Integrating innovative and sustainable principles, it will feature an entirely Indigenous planted landscape, honouring the site's ecological heritage and providing spaces for both human and non-human kin, fostering gathering, respite, shelter, and play.

Read more here: <https://lnkd.in/ggzWGFrQ>



Western Sydney University reveals Indigenous Centre of Excellence design



Western Sydney University's Indigenous Centre of Excellence design was unveiled by the Hon. Donna Davis MP; Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Chris Minns MP; Chancellor, Professor Jennifer Westacott AO; Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership; and Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Barney Glover AO. Image credit: Sally Tsoutas.

Western Sydney University has revealed the design for its transformational Indigenous Centre of Excellence.

Designed by Sarah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCB), Peter Stutchbury Architecture and Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, with Uncle Dean Kelly, Hill Thalix Architecture and Flux Consult, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be based at the Parramatta South campus located on Darug land.

Unveiled at a special event with members of the community, the design is guided by Country and brings to life a vision for a community-centric, transformational building that integrates Indigenous knowledges, featuring a new state-of-the-art theatre and cinema, exhibition galleries, teaching and learning facilities and Indigenous discovery space.

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will target a 6-star Green Star rating and feature a mass timber structure using Australian hardwoods. It prioritises Indigenous and Country-focused materials and suppliers with the facade to be constructed using clay sourced directly from Country.

Integrating innovative and sustainable principles, it will feature an entirely Indigenous planted landscape, honouring the site's ecological heritage and providing spaces for both human and non-human kin, fostering gathering, respite, shelter, and play.



Design impression of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Image credit: Western Sydney University.

Chancellor Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Barney Glover AO and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership Professor Michelle Trudgett unveiled the design, joined by the Hon. Chris Minns, Premier of NSW, members of the University's Elders Advisory Committee, key Indigenous stakeholders and other University leaders.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership, Professor Michelle Trudgett, said: "Together with the University's Elders Advisory Committee, Indigenous stakeholders and Sarah Lynn Rees and team, Western Sydney University is proud to unveil the design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence."

"Deeply connected with Country and Indigenous knowledges, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a transformational space where communities can connect with the University while learning from and celebrating our incredible culture."

Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Barney Glover AO, said: "Western Sydney University is committed to advancing Indigenous education, leadership, and engagement. This world-class building represents a significant opportunity for us to intensify our engagement with communities and will connect people and place to celebrate tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledge and history."

Chancellor, Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, said: "The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a benchmark for Indigenous leadership and education. It forms an important part of Western Sydney University's Indigenous Strategy 2020-2025, which aims to increase Indigenous participation in higher education, fostering emerging Indigenous leaders for decades to come."

Architect spokesperson, Sarah Lynn Rees, Senior Associate, Jackson Clements Burrows, said: "Our design engages with the layered physical and experiential histories of the site to create a proposal that is born from the spatial language of Country and healed through the return of waterway, ecology, and home for non-human kin."

"Inspired by the form and safety of the mangroves and veiled by a woven like façade, the design acts as a canvas within which human and non-human kin can re-connect. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will facilitate the practice of caring for Country and the transfer of cultural and academic knowledge, amplifying individual and collective cultural strength for the benefit of all."



Design impression of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Image credit: Western Sydney University.

The purpose-built facility will support the sharing and preservation of Indigenous cultures while informal learning spaces will provide opportunities for engagement and collaboration. It will feature an Indigenous library, Elders lounge, Indigenous research and student facilities, and an internal and external community gathering space.

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and interests and will provide an opportunity to learn about the rich stories, language and cultural heritage of Australia's First Peoples, to explore arts and cultural collections, and to attend performances, talks and screenings.

Supported by a \$78.5 million grant from the NSW Government, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be an important gathering place for the community to celebrate both the University's and the region's long-standing connection with Indigenous peoples.

Forming a key part of the University's *Indigenous Strategy 2020-2025*, the Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a benchmark for Indigenous leadership and education. It is planned to be completed and open for operation in 2026.

For more information about Western Sydney University's Indigenous Centre of Excellence, please visit <https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/western-growth/ICOE>.

ENDS

6 March 2024

8.9 Project web page update

[illegible]

8.10 Webinar presentation



Indigenous Centre of Excellence SSDA

Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus

Community Information Session

25 March 2024



Western Sydney University acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the Traditional Custodians of the land where this project takes place, and all peoples and nations from lands affected.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Tonight's presenters



Western Sydney University

Architect

Planner

Engagement



Wayne Clark
Indigenous Engagement Coordinator
Western Sydney University



Thomas Kholawar
Project Director
Western Sydney University



Sarah Lynn Rees
Senior Associate
Jackson Concrete Research



Daniel Howard
Associate Director - Planning
Urban Urban



Julia McLean
Principal - Engagement
White Urban

PAGE 3

Contents

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Project Overview
- 3 Project Design
- 4 Planning Context
- 5 Q&A
- 6 Next Steps

6/27/2024

PAGE 4

Webinar Etiquette



Please respect other people's time and contributions



We ask that you keep your microphone off during the presentation



We will address questions during a Q&A at the end of the presentation

PAGE 5

Why are we here?

- **Provide information about the planning process for Western Sydney University's Indigenous Centre of Excellence (ICoE)**
- **Share key information on project elements and design**
- **Provide an opportunity for questions and feedback**

PAGE 6

Project Overview

with Wayne Clark & Thomas Klobucar

Project Background



Image credit: Sally Tarnata

- **Indigenous Strategy 2020 – 2025** – Western Sydney University will position itself as a national leader in Indigenous higher education
- WSU is planning to develop an Indigenous Centre of Excellence, located on **Darug land** at its Parramatta South Campus.
- **Indigenous-led project** – continuous collaboration to ensure the Indigenous Centre of Excellence reflects the Indigenous community's aspirations and needs, and creates a space that is authentic, inclusive, and culturally sensitive.
- Indigenous-centred design guided by the University's Elders Advisory Committee.

Project Site

- This project will deliver a new Indigenous Centre of Excellence at the Parramatta South Campus, located on Darug land
- Western Sydney University's Parramatta South Campus – P1 Carpark site, Victoria Road



Indigenous Centre of Excellence

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence project is funded by the NSW Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program in association with Western Sydney University.



Indigenous Centre of Excellence

- Will provide opportunities for the community to connect with Indigenous culture and Country, featuring learning spaces, galleries, gardens, and more.
- Aims to preserve Indigenous culture, promote cross-cultural learning, and contribute to social inclusion and recognition in Western Sydney.
- Will be accessible to all, driving educational excellence and positive outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents, including school students.
- Aligns with sustainability goals, targeting Five Star Green Star certification for a sustainable and enhanced user experience



National Design Competition

- National competition to select an iconic design for the Indigenous Centre of Excellence.
- Multi-stage, competitive process with nation's best Indigenous-led architects.
- Functional Design Brief, Cultural Brief and the Design Competition Brief was prepared in partnership with University's Elders Advisory Committee.
- Design Competition Selection Committee – esteemed individuals with deep expertise in the fields of design, architecture, Indigenous knowledges, and community engagement.
- Four finalists selected, with winner recently announced – team led by Sarah Lynn Rees, Jackson Clements Burrows Architects, Peter Stutchbury Architecture, Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture, Uncle Dean Kelly, Hills Thalys, and Flux consultants



Campus Planning

Parramatta South Campus Planning

- Will include consideration of how people travel to, and around the campus
- Will consider transport and access to University, including parking arrangements, public transport, active transport, university shuttle etc.
- Ensure the campus remains accessible and supported by a variety of transport options

Existing P1 Carpark

- The University is currently exploring options for the relocation of this car park, with a view to maintain, at a minimum, the existing number of parking spaces.
- Indigenous Centre of Excellence is still in the planning phase, car park transition arrangement will be confirmed ahead of any construction beginning on the site

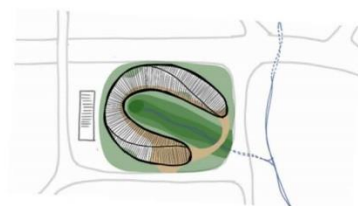


WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY
W

Project Design

with Sarah Lynn Rees

Intention:
To reconnect to the energies, flows
and practices of Country



Paperbark



Creek



Confluence

Intention:
For Country to have authorship
in the design; Mangroves as
composer

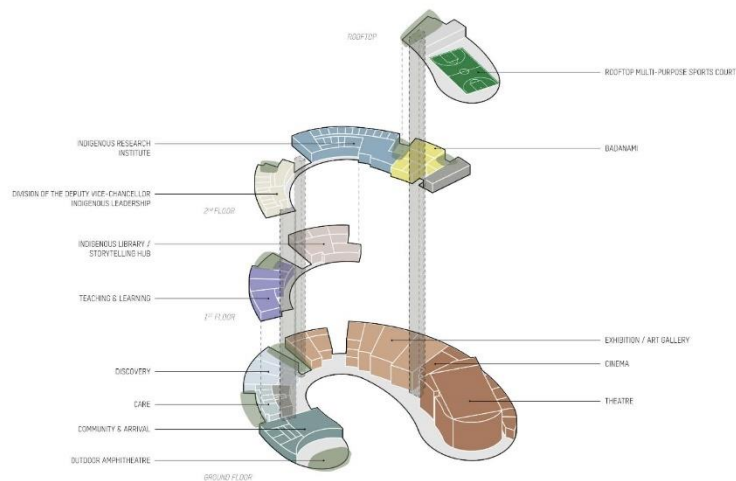


Intention:
To improve the health and
wellbeing of Country



Features of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY





View from the south



Aerial view



Outdoor amphitheatre



Arrival and welcome space with cafe



Theatre