



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, 3 January 2020

### **NSW GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN HAWKESBURY AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

High school students across the state will benefit for years to come with the NSW Government announcing a new Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education in Hawkesbury. This new model of agricultural education will also include new selective streams of agricultural education at Richmond High School commencing in 2021. Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Glenfield will also be upgraded.

The new state wide agricultural education model is part of the NSW Government's \$6.7 billion investment over four years to deliver more than 190 new and upgraded schools to support communities across NSW, the largest investment in public education infrastructure in the history of NSW.

The Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education will be a new purpose-built residential education facility of 60-80 capacity that will deliver contemporary agricultural STEM education and training to students and staff. It will be co-located with the Western Sydney University (WSU) Hawkesbury campus, Richmond and will be available for agricultural students from Richmond High School, Hurlstone Agricultural High School and all other schools in NSW. It will also be available for teacher training for TAFE, WSU, industry and overseas students.

Richmond High School will have both an agricultural specialty stream and a new academically selective stream along with a new school block and refurbishment of school facilities. More detail on the timeline and nature of enrolment intake for years 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be available in Term 1, 2020.

Hurlstone Agricultural High School will keep its name and stay at the Glenfield site as an academically selective, boarding, agricultural high school. Boarding facilities will be upgraded and the dairy facilities retained, with any future plans for site to be subject to consultation with the local community.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston, welcomed the new announcement as a commitment that will strengthen the agricultural sector in Hawkesbury for the future, by providing new facilities and leading agricultural education opportunities.

"This gives Hawkesbury families a local choice in agricultural education and will ensure that the Year 7 student intake will commence in 2021. It will also attract students, teachers and specialists from beyond Hawkesbury with the Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Education."

“It will serve Hawkesbury as a leading agricultural hub to study, work and live in by offering better educational pathways for students from all across the country and overseas. It underscores the NSW Government’s commitment to an industry doing it tough at the moment and it’s a big win for the people of Hawkesbury and all of New South Wales.”

“We are committed to delivering the best possible educational facilities and outcomes for students and this can be achieved only with extensive consultation with our school communities and other stakeholders. Community information sessions are planned for early this year to talk through the status of the projects and I encourage those interested to attend and have your say,” Ms Preston said.

For more information about the improvements for Richmond High School go to [www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)

**Media: Josh Byrne | Hawkesbury Electorate Office | [\(02\) 4578 0300](tel:0245780300)**