



Waverley College in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs is working on a proposal to convert 5000 sqm of land at the rear of their Junior School, Wingara, into safe, usable and accessible learning and recreation spaces. The school's vision is to provide students with greater opportunities to explore and connect with the natural environment while preserving the existing native trees and enhancing it with extensive new native tree and understory planting.

We are excited to be expanding the work done by Waverley Council's Ecology Team at Bronte Gully to ensure Wingara plays an integral role in connecting the biodiversity habitat corridor between Bronte Gully, Waverley Cemetery and Centennial Park. This will expand and link a variety of different habitats which are critical to long term ecological connections between regions.

The draft proposal includes the restoration of the existing environment creating spaces for learning, play and engagement, including a yarning circle, informal seating and viewing decks. The proposal also provides for safety and security improvements such as enhanced walking paths, the installation of fencing and screening around the campus perimeter and emergency vehicle access.

With availability of safe and accessible outdoor recreation and learning spaces at a premium in the Waverley area, the school is excited by the opportunity to provide students with safe and engaging spaces to learn, play and connect to nature.

"Research indicates outdoor experiences play an important role in education as well as providing positive health and well-being outcomes for children. At the very heart of our proposal is a commitment to delivering real educational and wellbeing benefits to our students while delivering environmentally sustainable outcomes and mitigating impacts to neighbouring residents," said Graham Leddie, Principal at Waverley College.

The proposed site is heritage listed by Waverley Council and home to a number of protected trees and native vegetation and is valued by residents for its environmental importance and contribution to local character.

"We recognise the protected heritage status of many of the trees at Wingara as well as the importance of this space to local residents. These factors are reflected in our concept design which ensures retention and protection of the existing sandstone outcrop, the mature figs and heritage listed palm, jacaranda, banksia and eucalyptus trees," said Mr Leddie.

Waverley College has undertaken initial engagement with the school community and local residents to inform their proposal and the local community are encouraged to continue to provide feedback.





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“So far, we have focused our engagement primarily on the school community and adjacent neighbours. However, the school will engage with the broader local community to share our design proposal as part of the formal planning process which we anticipate will take place in February / March 2022.”

“It’s important for us to understand community views as they inform design and planning and will ensure we deliver a space that benefits the school and local communities now and for generations to come,” Mr Leddie said.

More information about the proposal is available at <https://waverley.nsw.edu.au/information/wingara-project-landscape-regeneration> or by contacting the community engagement team on 1800 719 780 or waverleycollegewingara@wsp.com.

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