

Wickham School of Arts

FACT SHEET



Current state of former Wickham School of Arts Building.



Rear annex and non-heritage building (at right).

Overview

HCCDC is committed to continuing to create great places in Honeysuckle and we are excited about the ongoing transformation of this significant precinct.

The former Wickham School of Arts building is located in the western end of Honeysuckle, which is earmarked for significant future mixed use and commercial outcomes.

HCCDC is lodging a development application (DA) for repair works to the former Wickham School of Arts building, as we progress with planning for the precinct's final transformation.

History

The former Wickham School of Arts has local social and historical significance, originally designed by Newcastle Architect, Peter Bennett for the use of residents of Wickham.

The building's historical significance is enhanced by Henry Lawson writing 'I worked at Hudson Bros. at Wickham Newcastle, where I haunted the School of Arts, still with the idea of learning before it was too late. I felt I must take up some branch of study or other and it seemed getting too late fast'.

Reference: NSW Government – Office of Environment and Heritage.

Next steps

The DA will be lodged with City of Newcastle to maintain the heritage integrity of the building, giving it the best opportunity to be re-purposed as part of a future development.

The DA proposes works to:

- remove asbestos;
- install a new roof;
- reseal windows and doors;
- add a dampcourse; and
- remove a non-heritage annex and remove two neighbouring buildings that are not heritage-listed nor unique.

The City of Newcastle will review the DA, and subject to approval, HCCDC hopes to commence work in mid-2021.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the plans for the former Wickham School of Arts building in the future?

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan identifies the West End of Newcastle as a business district, with significant commercial floor space. Any potential adaptive reuse for the building will be considered in detail when future development proposals are assessed.

What is the heritage listing of the former Wickham School of Arts building?

The former Wickham School of Arts building is listed in the Newcastle Local Environment Plan (LEP) as a heritage item with local significance. The building is listed on the Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation Register under section 170 of the Heritage Act 1977.

Should the building be on the NSW State Heritage Register?

A heritage expert has reviewed the building against the NSW heritage assessment criteria and has determined the building is of local significance. This assessment is currently with Heritage NSW for endorsement.

Is HCCDC planning to demolish the former Wickham School of Arts building?

There are no plans to demolish the building. The DA proposes repair works to improve the safety of the building and remove the non-heritage annex and remove two neighbouring buildings that are not heritage-listed.