

Community Update
May 2024

We are reimagining Newcastle Art Gallery



City of
Newcastle



Above: Artist impression

Newcastle Art Gallery has been at the heart of our city's arts and cultural history for over 40 years.

The expansion project will deliver an additional 1,600 square metres of exhibition space to showcase our city's collection and our artists' most groundbreaking concepts. This expansion will cement Newcastle's position as one of Australia's leading cultural facilities and significantly increase visitation to the city.

The project will also deliver a new café and retail shop, multi-purpose and educational program spaces, a secure international standard loading dock, and will extend the building's footprint east along Darby Street and Queen Street.

While Newcastle Art Gallery is being reimagined, we will continue to deliver ambitious offsite and digital programming for the community. Visit nag.org.au for more information on our offsite programs.

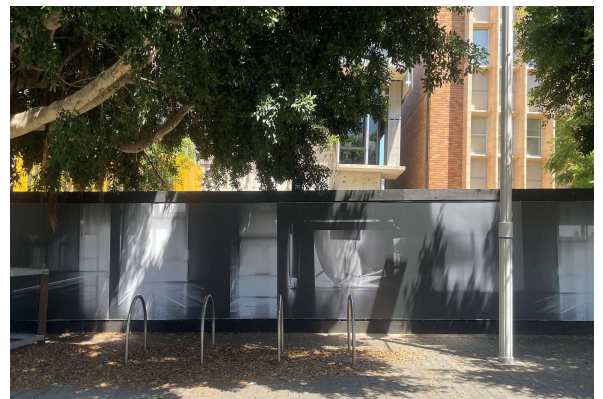
Construction is scheduled to be completed at the **end of 2024**. A period of commissioning will then follow, ahead of the Gallery's relaunch in 2025. For the latest updates and project information please visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/works

What is happening on site?

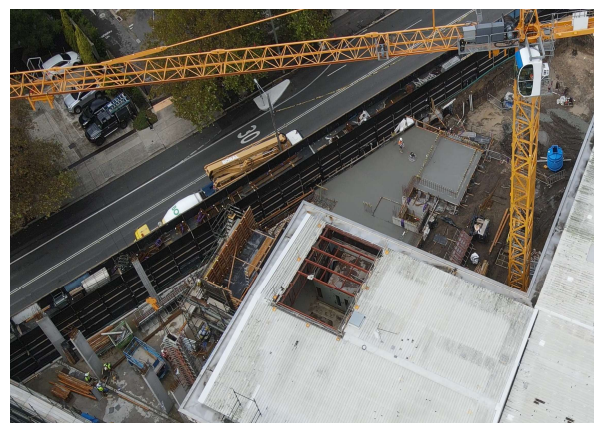
- Late last year the expansion of Newcastle Art Gallery reached new heights with the installation of a 33-metre-high hammerhead tower crane on site.
- The crane is busy lifting around 260 tonnes of reinforcing mesh for the concrete floors, beams, columns and walls. It will also lift 112 tonnes of structural steel for the construction of the façade, the roof and the atrium, and it will lift around 3,000 square metres of roof sheeting into place.
- A ceremony was held in late March to name the crane "Sparkles", following community outreach with local pre-schoolers.
- In her entry, competition winner Mabel (aged 5) said that she chose the name Sparkles "because it is cute and girls can build things too". We couldn't agree more!
- We are pleased to welcome the installation of commissioned works to the fencing surrounding the work site. Newcastle's Izabela Pluta and proud Yuwi man Dylan Mooney from Brisbane are the first of four artists to have their work on show to passers-by during the Gallery's expansion.
- Later this year Sydney-based artists Diana Baker-Smith and Agus Wijaya will have their work on display, creating a unique opportunity for audiences to enjoy works of art made by these four well-regarded contemporary Australian artists.
- On site, work is progressing well to grow the footprint of the expanded Gallery with sections of the ground floor slabs being poured over the last month. For the latest updates please visit newcastle.nsw.gov.au/works



Above: Celebrations at our recent Name the Crane ceremony.



Above: Izabela Pluta's work featuring on Laman Street.



Above: Ground floor slabs are being poured, starting from the northeastern corner and moving south.

City of Newcastle's \$54 million expansion of Newcastle Art Gallery is supported by \$5 million from the Australian Government under the Regional Recovery Partnerships and \$5 million from the New South Wales Government under the Regional Recovery Package, as well as \$12 million from Newcastle Art Gallery Foundation made possible through the Valerie and John Ryan bequest, Margaret Olley Trust, and community fundraising over many years. A further \$1 million is currently being sought through the Foundation's public fundraising campaign.