



Don Harwin
Minister for Resources
Minister for Energy and Utilities
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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‘THE RES’ ROOF TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO STUDENT PLAYGROUND

Students at Newcastle East Public School could have access to a new playground with some of the best views in the city, thanks to a proposal to reopen the historic Res roof.

Minister for Energy and Utilities Don Harwin today inspected improvements made to the area to use the space as a playground.

Hunter Water has been working with the Department of Education on the proposal since February last year. A Development Application is currently before Newcastle City Council.

Minister Harwin said it was a great opportunity to use the vacant space.

“It’s important children have room to play and learn. Turning the top of The Res into a playground would be a wonderful way to facilitate that and share this iconic site with the community.

“Using this space would represent yet another chapter in the fascinating history of The Res. From Newcastle’s first drinking water reservoir, to public attraction and more recently, state heritage site,” said Mr Harwin.

Hunter Water Managing Director Jim Bentley said Hunter Water was pleased to work together with the Department of Education, the school and Council on the project.

“We thought it was a great idea to allow students to use this space as a playground, when it was first suggested by the school last year. Significant progress has been made since then to ensure the area is secure, with the safety and wellbeing of the students the priority.

“We’re working cooperatively with all parties to meet the requirements of the Development Application and we’re optimistic about the proposal.”

Principal Mick McCann welcomed the arrangement.

“We have recreation areas in the school grounds, but this would be a real bonus for our focus on keeping students as active as possible outside the classroom.

“It’s a great example of how beneficial it can be to talk to your neighbours, whether they’re individuals or organisations,” said Mr McCann.