



Rob Stokes
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

Stuart Ayres
Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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WORK TO BEGIN ON WESTERN SYDNEY HERBARIUM

The construction of a \$60 million herbarium at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, which will initially provide 120 full time jobs, is the NSW Government's latest investment in Western Sydney.

Minister for Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes and Minister for Western Sydney Stuart Ayres today announced that construction has commenced for the new Herbarium, which will safeguard a collection of more than 1.4 million botanical specimens.

"We're delivering a world-class botanic science facility for Western Sydney to build more resilient ecosystems for future generations, while generating approximately 120 full-time jobs during construction," Mr Stokes said.

"The \$299 million collection is presently located at the Royal Botanic Garden in Sydney but with more than 8000 new plant specimens being added every year, storage capacity will be exhausted by 2022.

"This important and significant collection needs a new home and we're proud to make this investment in Western Sydney."

Mr Ayres added that the NSW Government "is doing all it can to keep industry moving" during the economic challenges that have come with the pandemic.

"Our COVID-19 Recovery Plan is about projects like this; keeping Western Sydney growing by supporting the construction industry and creating jobs," Mr Ayres said.

"This state-of-the-art Herbarium will join the Award winning Australian PlantBank at Mount Annan, creating a significant science hub in south-west Sydney."

Member for Camden Peter Sidgreaves also welcomed construction getting underway.

"It's exciting to know one of the most important botanical resources in the Southern Hemisphere will be housed here in Mt Annan," Mr Sidgreaves said.

"With more than 800 specimens collected by botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on Captain Cook's first voyage to the Pacific in 1770, it is a fascinating part of our ecological history."

The new Herbarium design consists of protective vaults that will shield the growing collection of plant specimens from bushfires and other extreme temperature events.

Construction of the new herbarium is expected to be completed by late 2021.

Videos and images available [here](#)

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