

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 29 August 2018

### MAJOR PLANNING MILESTONE FOR TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL

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Lynne Weir, Acting Chief Executive for Northern NSW Local Health District, has welcomed a major milestone in the Tweed Valley Hospital planning process, with the project lodging a request for environmental assessment requirements.

The request for Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the Department of Planning & Environment comes as consultation for the project continues to increase. Meetings of the project's Council Reference Group and Consumer and Community Reference Panel have been held during the past fortnight.

"We are committed to delivering a world-class hospital for the people of the Tweed-Byron region," Ms Weir said.

"Ensuring that health professionals, consumers and the broader community are able to provide input and help shape the planning and design of this brand new hospital is key to the success of this project.

"I'm delighted to receive reports that progress is being made on the planning studies and submissions required to secure the necessary approvals to commence early works before the end of the year," Ms Weir said.

The request for SEARs identifies the planning pathway for the project, which is a staged State Significant Development application including:

- Stage 1 – seeking approval for the hospital concept and consent to commence early and enabling works on site, and
- Stage 2 - seeking approval for the design, construction and commissioning of the Tweed Valley Hospital itself.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared to support the Stage 1 application for the early and enabling works. A separate EIS will be prepared to assess any impacts associated with building the hospital itself, which will be subject to a second State Significant Development application.

NSW Health Infrastructure has also requested that the Department of Planning and Environment prepare a site-specific State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to allow the State Significant Development application to be considered.

# Tweed Valley Hospital Development

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“The planning pathway acknowledges the significance of this project for the region and our absolute focus on having this new hospital open as soon as possible to meet the critical health needs of the Tweed-Byron community,” said Rebecca Wark, Executive Director, Rural & Regional, Health Infrastructure.

“This includes expanded and new services, including access to the necessary range of cancer treatments, including radiotherapy, as well as cardiac catheterisation and other life-saving interventional procedures.

“Recent engagement with Council, and consumer and community representatives has continued to develop our thinking and inform the master plan and initial building concepts of a hospital for the people of the Tweed-Byron region, by the people of the Tweed-Byron region,” said Ms Wark.

The NSW Government’s \$582 million investment in the Tweed-Byron region will deliver a brand new, state-of-the-art hospital on a greenfield site, as well as interim upgrades at The Tweed Hospital.

The project consists of:

- Delivery of a new major referral hospital to provide the health services required to meet the needs of the growing and ageing population of the Tweed-Byron region, in conjunction with the other hospitals and community health centres across the region
- Master planning for the additional health, education, training and research facilities necessary to support these health services, which will be developed with service partners over time
- Delivery of the supporting infrastructure required for the new hospital, including greenspace and other amenity spaces, campus roads and car parking, external road upgrades and connections, utilities connections, and other supporting infrastructure.

Works on site will commence as soon as site acquisition and planning approvals are in place. Early and enabling works are expected to begin by the end of 2018, with the new hospital completed in 2022 and open in 2023.

Please visit the website for all the latest project news and information:  
[www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au).

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