

Friday, 3 November 2023

## **NATIVE COMMUNITY GARDEN CREATED AT NEW TWEED VALLEY HOSPITAL**

Staff and community members involved in the planning and design of the new \$723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital had the opportunity to contribute a personal touch to the hospital campus today by bringing back native seedlings for planting within the new landscaped gardens.

The native seedlings were gifted to staff and community members in December 2021, and have been grown and nurtured over the past two years.

Health Infrastructure Executive Director, Rural and Regional Amanda Bock said the planting of the seedlings in the new community garden signifies the role staff and the community have played in the design and planning of the major hospital development.

“Staff and the community have been instrumental in transforming the concept of the Tweed Valley Hospital into an impressive health facility, which when opened, will serve the community for decades to come,” Ms Bock said.

“Over 400 staff members from The Tweed Hospital were involved in the planning and design of the new hospital, and more than 119 community members have generously volunteered their time and expertise along the way.

“This community garden is an opportunity to acknowledge the community’s contributions in the delivery of their new health facility and will serve as a lasting legacy of the important role they played in helping us get to where we are today.”

The community garden will be located at the east entry to the hospital and will create a welcoming place for patients, visitors, and staff. A small, commemorative plaque will mark the location of the garden.

Northern NSW Local Health District Chief Executive Tracey Maisey said the garden will be one of the many landscaped areas spread across the 19.4-hectare site, which will soon be home to over 240,000 native plants and shrubs and 455 trees.

“We consulted with local Aboriginal Elder and native plant expert Uncle Franc Krasna on the landscaping plan for the hospital which will give the new Tweed Valley Hospital a unique and distinctive identity,” Ms Maisey said.

“The hospital’s grounds will feature a range of native plants, shrubs and trees, plants, creating an interactive public health space to enhance the experience of those working at or visiting the new hospital.”

The Tweed Valley Hospital is due to open to patients in 2024.

For more information and updates on the new Tweed Valley Hospital, please visit the project website at [www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au)

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