

4 December 2018

Community exhibition period extended for Tweed Valley Hospital

The public exhibition period for the Tweed Valley Hospital Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been extended to 13 December 2018, with the community encouraged to have their say during this significant milestone in the project process.

The Department of Planning and Environment extended the exhibition period of both the site-specific State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) and the EIS for two weeks to ensure the community has enough time to consider the content and submit any feedback.

The EIS exhibition period is the latest of many opportunities for community engagement about the project, with community feedback playing an important part in every step of the hospital planning and delivery to date.

Community feedback has been central to the planning for the new hospital, including reducing building height by using the site slope to tier the facility, ways to connect the site through bicycle and footpaths to the surrounding community, and how the environmental area to the north of the site can be improved and better used.

Traffic and transport, visual impact, social impact, biodiversity conservation and the impact of the project on State Significant Farmland are key themes that have also emerged from the community consultation.

Work has already started with public transport providers and community health providers, to ensure public transport to the site is available from the day the hospital opens its doors to the public, as well as looking at ways of working with the farming community to improve sustainable agriculture practices and increase yields in the region.

Staff members, including everyone from clinical teams to security and cleaning staff, have also been collaborating with members of the Community Reference Panel and the project team to inform the design of the hospital, and deliver the best clinical and operational outcomes for the hospital.

Priorities raised through the online public survey conducted in September also emphasised the need to ensure sustainable architectural outcomes are achieved, as well as the importance of delivering good, affordable on-site coffee shops, outdoor spaces and other facilities for staff, patients and carers.

Community consultation for the project to date has reached more than 1200 people at 42 pop-up and eight drop-in sessions held by the Integrated Project Team. Additionally, the Project Team has received more than 600 written submissions, 509 responses to an online survey and over 10,000 visits to the project website.

This is in addition to the 60 community members actively taking part in the Community Reference Panel, and more than 1000 total clinical and hospital staff attendances at 130 Project User Group sessions.

For further information regarding the Tweed Valley Hospital development or the EIS process, please visit the project website at www.tweedvalleyhospital.health.nsw.gov.au