

**DATE:** 18 January 2019

**SUBJECT:** Council refers planning for essential environmental protection works to NSW Ombudsman

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NSW Health notes that Tweed Shire Council intends to refer the planning pathway for the essential environmental protection works on the Tweed Valley Hospital site to the NSW Ombudsman.

Health Infrastructure complies with all relevant State and Commonwealth planning, building and environmental regulations on all its projects, and it is no different for the Tweed Valley Hospital project.

Following acquisition of the site for the new Tweed Valley Hospital in early November 2018, the Health Administration Corporation, through its Health Infrastructure division, commenced preliminary works to secure the site and make it safe, and to put in place environmental controls to ensure the protection of the sensitive wetland areas to the north of the site.

In relation to the on-going environmental protection works:

- There is a pre-existing issue with sediment-laden stormwater from the farmed land draining into the wetland areas due to the slope of the site, and the general lack of vegetation.
- Erosion and sediment control works are required to reduce pollutants and protect the habitat within the wetland areas.
- The sediment basins are sized to protect the site in its current state in accordance with law.

Both Council and the Department of Planning and Environment have been fully informed and consulted about the preliminary works on the site over many months.

Health Infrastructure has at all times consulted and co-operated with Council and remains willing to continue doing so.

**END**