

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

### PROJECT UPDATE AND HOSPITAL SITE WALK

26 November 2021

The project team were excited to welcome twelve members of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Working Group to the hospital site to provide a project update followed by a walk around the new hospital. This is the first meeting that we have been able to conduct in person since COVID-19 restrictions came into place and it was wonderful to see some familiar faces, as well as welcome some new community members.

Community Working Group members were provided an **update on construction**, with the latest [aerial video and images](#) showing concrete slab pours up to level four of the hospitals' five operational levels above ground.

Lendlease provided an update on the Aboriginal Participation In Construction (**APIC**) policy, where the project has committed to a **5%** target for contract spend towards facilitating Aboriginal participation in the project. This is well above the government requirement of **1.5%**, and includes employment with Lendlease as well as subcontractors, engagement of Indigenous owned companies for works, and supply chain.

There are seven **Aboriginal employees** currently working directly with Lendlease, with three of these in **management roles**. The current subcontractor workforce includes 39 **Aboriginal workers**.

Overall, the Tweed Valley Hospital project has achieved a total expenditure of circa \$9M (as at end of October 2021), or approximately **7%** of the overall direct costs to date.

The team shared feedback on the **Secondary Art Program's** Expressions of Interest process, which included some impressive submissions from local Aboriginal artists.

An **Aboriginal Cultural Consultant** is being engaged to lead the community consultation for the artwork, as well as other cultural safety elements including language translation on signage and native planting.

Vibrant **local artist**, Hiromi Tango, was a special guest at the meeting. Hiromi invited members to share their insights and stories about local plants, which will form the 'DNA' of the **Garden sculpture** for the main foyer of the hospital.

Hiromi delighted Panel members with her vision for the feature artwork and a special gift to inspire participation in the engagement program.

The meeting concluded with a **walking tour** of the ground floor of the hospital, which will house Outpatient, Renal, Cancer Services and Medical Imaging departments, as well as a café and shop.

