

Community Reference Panel meeting

Session summary | Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) briefing

The focused sessions that were set up for the Environmental Impact Statement briefings allowed introduction to the eight new members and an insight to existing member's backgrounds and their reasons for being involved in the Panel.

Some comments regarding reasons for **participation on the Panel** included "We can all have some input in getting it right", "I'm passionate about getting the best health services for the community", "I'm just keen to see the hospital built", "I'm interested in how the building will shoehorn within the community and wanting to make sure people's fears are allayed", "This is an amazing opportunity for the community to be involved from the start", "I don't believe there is anything that can't be worked through together", and "I am honored to be a part of something so worthwhile".

A group activity was run to workshop the name of **community newsletter**.

Some great suggestions were made and we are pleased to announce that your new community newsletter about the new hospital will be called **Valley Pulse – Your local, good health news**.

The first issue of Valley Pulse will be issued in November. Suggestions or requests for articles in this publication can be made via tweedvalleyhospital@health.nsw.gov.au.



Valley Pulse

Your local, good health news

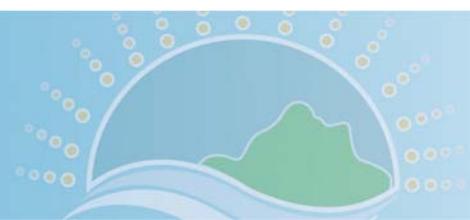
Feedback from the recent **community consultation on design principles** for the new hospital was provided, including the key themes of what we heard from the community about what is important to you to be considered in the design. A [consultation outcomes](#) summary report on the can be found on the project website.

A number of Panel members have been invited to sit on clinical **Project User Groups** (PUGs) and the first round of these meetings have taken place, with a second round to commence shortly. It was noted that targeted engagement is underway to ensure that there is broad representation from consumers on the PUGs to ensure the community perspective is represented in all areas.

The project team have also been following up on **patient stories** to share their real-life experiences of the health service, and Panel members were encouraged to get in touch with a member of the project team if they knew of anyone who would be interested in this opportunity.



Community Reference Panel members at the Environmental Impact Statement briefing on 18 October 2018



The Environmental Impact Statement explained

Feature presentation

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a comprehensive and mostly technical document that responds to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) that have been issued for the Tweed Valley Hospital project by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The presentation to the Panel outlined the two stages of the EIS, with the current stage seeking approval of the hospital concept, and the second application process to commence in early in 2019 once hospital design has been progressed.

An overview of the key findings was provided within categories that included the planning envelope, traffic and transport, vehicular access, environmental amenity, noise, aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage, social impacts, biodiversity, agricultural impact, hydrology, waste management, aviation and design aspirations.

The session ran through the next steps, including lodgment of the EIS submission to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE); who will advertise, place the document of public exhibition and invite community feedback.

This is the opportunity for the community to have their say, and further information will be provided on how and where to access the documentation once published by DPE.



Members of the Community Reference Panel receiving a briefing on the Environmental Impact Statement

