



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on
Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL PROPOSAL

Planning for the new Northern Beaches Hospital has taken another important step forward, with Health Minister Jillian Skinner and Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard inviting the public to comment on the first of two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the Frenchs Forest site.

The EIS provides an indicative site layout and seeks permission for Stage 1 works that would see the 6.5 hectare site cleared and other preparatory works completed before main construction works commence in early 2015.

“This public exhibition of planning for the first stage of works confirms the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government’s commitment to building a modern, state-of-the-art facility to serve the people of the Northern Beaches,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The 423-bed Northern Beaches Hospital will utilise leading digital technologies to deliver the highest quality surgical, medical, paediatric, obstetric and inpatient mental health services, as well as a large, modern emergency department.

“This is a hospital the people of the Northern Beaches have been dreaming of and I am proud to be part of the Government which will deliver it.

“As part of the Stage 1 EIS, a biodiversity offset strategy has been prepared to mitigate the impacts to the ecosystem known locally as Duffys Forest Ecological Community.

“This biodiversity offset strategy would permanently protect a number of threatened flora and fauna species on a 10-hectare site at Belrose, adjoining Garigal National Park, which will be formally managed as a conservation reserve.”

Mr Hazzard said the planning assessment process for this State Significant Infrastructure project gives the community the opportunity to provide feedback via formal submissions to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

“The NSW Government understands the need for better health facilities on the Northern Beaches but it is crucial that we get the planning and execution right, which is why we look forward to receiving the community’s feedback,” he said.

The Northern Beaches Hospital will be built on a 6.5 hectare site bounded by Frenchs Forest Road West (north), Warringah Road (south), Wakehurst Parkway (east) and The Forest High School (west).

Improving the road network and integrating public transport in the area is part of the overall strategic plan for the wider Northern Beaches region.

A reference group involving NSW Health, Roads and Maritime Service, local councils, Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Transport for NSW has been established to ensure all key government departments and other stakeholders are coordinated to deliver a holistic road and public transport solution.

The display of the Stage 1 EIS is available until November 28 at http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5982

The Stage 2 EIS will be lodged with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in late 2014, giving the community another chance to comment on the project.

Three proven hospital operators have been invited to submit a Request for Proposal document to design, construct, operate and maintain the Northern Beaches Hospital. They are Adventist HealthCare Ltd (Sydney Adventist Hospital), Healthscope and Ramsay Health Care.

The preferred operator will be selected in 2014. The hospital is scheduled for completion in 2018.

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