

Why do we need to redevelop Shoalhaven Hospital?

Our population is growing and our people are living longer with chronic and complex illnesses. By 2031, the Shoalhaven catchment is forecast to grow 12%, with significantly faster population growth in the 70+ age groups.

To provide high quality, accessible healthcare for our growing population, we need a significantly larger hospital, in both size and capability. The future hospital needs to be close to transport links and integrated with a wide range of health services to better serve the needs of our community now and into the future.

When will work start on the project?

Early work is expected to start on site this year, including investigation of current ground condition.

Building a new health facility involves three key phases – planning, design and delivery. We are currently in the planning phase. The extensive planning process will help confirm the size and capability of the hospital.

Delivery involves the award of a construction tender with the successful contractor beginning construction works for the redevelopment which may include enabling works, early works and/or main works.

For more information on the project phases, visit <https://www.hinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/our-business/how-to-build-a-hospital>



What services are being planned for our redeveloped hospital?

An expansion of the hospital campus into a portion of Nowra Park will allow for new and expanded health facilities and services. Upgrading the role of Shoalhaven Hospital means that less people will need to be transferred to Wollongong Hospital or to Sydney for services such as neurology/stroke, cardiology and complex surgeries.



To deliver that vision, the following has been planned for the future:

- **Increased surgical capacity:** More operating theatres and surgical beds allowing treatment of more complex cases
- Increased capacity in the **Emergency Department**
- Enhanced **Intensive Care Unit**
- Increased **acute medical** and **aged care** beds. Additional services will be introduced including cardiology specialist services and an enhanced Acute Stroke Unit
- Enhanced and expanded **mental health services** to reduce the need for consumers to travel outside the area
- Expanded subacute **rehabilitation care** including inpatient unit and day hospital
- Expanded **palliative care** services to complement the existing community palliative care service
- **Expanded medical imaging department:** MRI imaging and nuclear medicine will be introduced



- **Expanded outpatient and ambulatory care clinics** to improve the hospital efficiency, provide earlier primary care intervention and reduce reliance on admitted care.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Were other sites investigated as a possibility for the redevelopment?

Yes. A Site Identification Analysis was conducted to identify suitable sites in the Shoalhaven region. The analysis was based on criteria including population growth, local demographics, health services, transport and other services. Environmental factors must also be taken into account, including potential flood and bushfire risk.

The current hospital site provides the highest suitability in terms of closeness to amenities, public transport and associated facilities on site.

Over the past few years, significant investment has been made in this health precinct including the purpose-built Cancer Care Centre and Sub-Acute Mental Health Clinic.

The \$11.8 million Shoalhaven Hospital Car Park project, which has delivered increased parking capacity, was completed in early 2020. The multi-storey car park and additional parking makes it easier for staff, patients and visitors to access the hospital.

How will impacts on users of Nowra Park be managed?

Users of the park will be consulted, including nearby schools.

We appreciate the importance of public space, both on the riverfront and on the Nowra side of the precinct, and through consultation will seek a solution that balances the needs of the community.

Who is the architect for the project?

The highly regarded firm Conrad Gargett has been appointed architect for the project.

The company has undertaken many hospital builds and redevelopments.

Is the local community being consulted?

Community consultation is a core component of the redevelopment.

The Hospital's Consumer Advisory Group and Aboriginal Advisory Committee have been briefed on the project and the wider community will be invited to provide feedback during this planning stage. All project user groups and governance committees at the highest level include consumer and Aboriginal representatives.

We are planning for a multi-pronged approach to informing and consulting our community, including information sessions and pop-up stands, newsletters and a dedicated website.

What are the plans for the existing building?

Many of the existing facilities are deemed suitable to be used in future with upgrades to meet the new health facility guidelines.

This provides an excellent opportunity to realise the District's vision for Shoalhaven hospital over many years, and to expand on what we already have to deliver the services our community needs.