Future health city for Westmead

Premier Mike Baird has revealed the new concept design for Stage 1 of the Westmead Redevelopment.

“The redevelopment will deliver a world-class health city that the growing population of Western Sydney deserves,” Mr Baird said.

“We want to ensure we use all the skills of Western Sydney local industries so that funding for the project is invested back into the community and the local economy.”

More than 1000 jobs will be generated for each year of the project.

The new look Westmead starts with the Stage 1 acute services building, which will house the complex and critical care services in a multi-storey facility including new state-of-the-art operating theatres, extra inpatient beds and a new emergency department.

NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner said centralising services in the acute services building will improve treatment for critically-ill surgical patients.

“The completed project will also provide greater integration, particularly between the two hospitals and two research institutes,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Westmead precinct partners have worked together to ensure better approaches to services and facility planning, patient access, transport and car parking.”

More than 12,000 people work and visit Westmead daily and consultation with staff, clinicians and community members has been key in developing the new design.

The first works are now underway on site with critical upgrades to power, water, gas and other essential services and work will soon begin on the first stage of new car parking for patients, staff and visitors.

More information, fly-through video and launch event video on our website and the staff intranet now
Left: The concept design showing the acute services building and entry plaza.

Below, right: Main entry concept with drop-off zones and a spacious entry plaza to manage traffic and pedestrian access to the main entrance.

Below, left: Emergency entry on the level below the main entry.

Above: Vision for the future of Hawkesbury Road with a major “main street” for the health precinct.

Right: Main corridor concept.
Off to a great start, says chief

Western Sydney Local Health District chief executive Danny O’Connor has praised the work of Westmead staff, saying this week’s announcement was the result of more than 2000 interactions with clinicians, staff and consumers.

More than 100 project user group meetings have been held to date and have played a critical role in getting the project to the concept design phase.

“Planning and building a hospital is a long and complex process and we can’t do it without the input from staff,” Danny said.

“We’re still early in the planning process with the next stage - schematic design - due to start later this year with increased activity and consultation early in the new year.”

Better connections within the precinct and greater integration (especially between Westmead Hospital, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead and the two major research institutes) are high on the list of priorities for the redevelopment, but Danny stressed that further consultation and a commonsense approach will be required.

Responding to staff enquiries regarding options to integrate some adult and paediatric services, Danny said there were “great opportunities for integration but it’s early days yet”.

“Concept design is one of the early stages of a hospital development project. It helps us see the footprint, size and location of the new building but it’s common to retest and update the concept design to make sure all the services, connections and flows of staff, patients and information will work,” Danny said.

“We have more work to do. We will only integrate services if it makes sense to do so and if it enhances patient care.”

Danny encouraged staff to stay connected with the project and to look for opportunities to make changes sooner rather than later.

“New buildings are always exciting, but we don’t have to wait until the buildings open to start making changes,” Danny said.

“Talk to your head of department, nurse manager or your PUG representative about where you see opportunities for improvement today.

“We can start experimenting now with new models and approaches to service delivery.

“Real innovation comes from our ideas. It comes when we ask ‘how can we do it better’? That’s what will make us a world-leading centre for health, research and education.”

Partners in our health future

Some of the precinct partners on hand for the announcement, from left: Westmead Hospital general manager Andrew Newton, Health Infrastructure project director David Ballantyne, NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner, Health Infrastructure chief executive Sam Sangster, SCHN Board chair Christine Bennett, WML executive director Tony Cunningham, WSLHD chief executive Danny O’Connor, SCHN chief executive Michael Brydon and The University of Sydney Dean of Dentistry Dr Chris Peck.