Westmead Hospital is now home to two new state-of-the-art MRI machines, doubling the hospital’s scanning capacity and improving patient care.

The two 3T MRI machines were part of the hospital’s capital works program that replaces aged, major pieces of medical equipment.

The hospital now has three MRI machines, creating greater capacity for research while also decreasing waiting times for inpatients and outpatients requiring a scan.

The hospital conducts nearly 8000 outpatient scans annually, along with thousands of inpatient exams.

The capital works program also included a refurbishment of the MRI and radiology unit, including a new reporting room, along with fresh, modern wall colours and the installation of sky ceilings, giving patients a calming outlook during a scan.

Westmead Hospital general manager Andrew Newton said the renovation was designed to make MRI screening more pleasant for patients, while also extending research opportunities.

“We know that getting an MRI can often be scary, especially if you’re having the scan for the first time,” he said.

“These new machines are state-of-the-art – they come with headphones so patients can listen to music during the test, while also enjoying the new sky ceilings, which allow them to look at scenes of forests or the ocean while they’re having the scan.

“The MRI space doesn’t look like an examination room – it’s got a nice ambience now, making it a much more pleasurable experience for our patients.

The installation of the new machines was quite an effort, requiring each machine to be craned into the building due to their size and weight.

Western Sydney Local Health District Health Facility planner Marleen Moraza said a team of builders had spent months planning for the installation before craning in the machines on a weekend to minimise disruption.

“Our team came in at 5am and spent hours craning the huge machines into the hospital; these machines weigh up to 10 tonnes each so they’re incredibly heavy to move,” she said.

“The whole operation went really smoothly and we’re thrilled to have these two new, high-tech machines on offer at the hospital.”
Westmead Hospital Refurbishment Program

Westmead Hospital is currently undergoing a refurbishment program as part of the Westmead Redevelopment project. Over 30 per cent of clinical areas in Westmead Hospital will be refurbished between 2017 and 2022. Read more on our website: westmeadproject.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/refurbishments

What’s happening this week?

The Westmead Hospital refurbishment program continues and includes:

- A3a - refurbished clinical area on level 3 of block A
- The first non-clinical new ways of working space located on level 3 of the Oral Health building
- Westmead Education and Conference Centre (WECC)

Disruptions this week: Expect general noise and deliveries around all of the work sites.

A3a fit-out: ‘Core hole’ drilling and related work

- **Fri 26 May — Mon 26 June:** There will be increased noise and activity by workers, in and around the area, as core hole drilling occurs between the floor of A3a and in through the ceiling of the catheter lab on level 2. The drilling work will occur over weekend periods - starting around 5pm on Friday nights and continuing until 6am Mondays. The noisiest part of this weekend work will be complete by midnight on each day of these weekend workdays.
- Extensive staff consultation has occurred in relation to this work so staff can advise colleagues and prepare patients for the disruption. Please take care and follow instructions of the construction workers.

Westmead Education and Conference Centre Refurbishment

- The Westmead Education and Conference Centre (WECC) level 1 expansion and upgrade project is well underway.
- The WECC lifts are undergoing interior works and will be unavailable to use between Wednesday, 7 June until Wednesday, 14 June. Signage is in place to direct people to alternative routes.
- As things gear up, we’ll be hosting site walks of the new space—keep an eye out for more information.
Parking, pick-up and drop-off at the front of University Clinics will be impacted as we complete works for the Westmead Redevelopment.

- As construction works around University Clinics increases, we encourage only those attending services near University Clinics to use this drop-off and pick-up point.
- Those not attending services near University Clinics are encouraged to use the Westmead Hospital main entrance and the Westmead Centre for Oral Health entrance.
- Parking for patients and visitors is available in car park P1 with access from Darcy Road, and car park P3 with access from Hawkesbury Road.
- Pedestrian access around the Westmead Precinct will be maintained.
- Signage and traffic control is in place to assist.
- If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the Westmead Redevelopment on 1800 990 296 or email us at WSLHD-WestmeadProject@health.nsw.gov.au.

This is the only exit from car park P3.

This entry to car park P3 will re-open on Tuesday, 5 June.
Works In Westmead Hospital

Work continues on the Westmead Education and Conference Centre (WECC).

The A3a refurbishment works continue with ongoing disruption in and around the area including level 2, 3 and access to and from the loading dock.

Fri 26 May—Mon 26 June (on weekends): Core hole drilling between the floor of A3a and the ceiling of Catheter Lab on level 2.

See the refurbishment page for more information.

Construction continues of the first non-clinical New Ways of Working space on level 3 of the Oral Health building.
Precinct Works

Car parks currently available* for Westmead Hospital staff
Areas under construction

The new pedestrian route is open (as shown)
The current undercover walkway now forms part of the central acute services building construction zone. An alternative pathway has been built. There will be increased truck movements in this area.

Increased pedestrian and construction vehicle traffic in this location. Please exercise caution.

Construction works in this area begin today. Vehicle and pedestrian access will be maintained, however disruptions may occur.

Temporary fencing has been erected in this location.

Works on Institute Road begin in preparation for reinstating access to Mortuary Road.

Increased pedestrian and construction vehicle traffic in this location. Please exercise caution.

This section of the Children’s Hospital at Westmead car park now forms part of the central acute services building construction site.

Emergency Department

Works in this area will be complete on Tuesday, 6 June. Access to car park P3 will re-open.

Parramatta City Council will close the pedestrian crossing on Hawkesbury Road on Monday, 5 June to Thursday, 8 June from 8pm to 5am this week.

*Major changes to parking will continue throughout 2017. We will provide information about future changes in the weekly Westmead Redevelopment project update.

Emergency Department

Westmead Hospital Main Entry

Construction works impact access and parking at the entrance to University Clinics. See page 3 for more information.

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