Temporary Linkway Review

Last week the preliminary design of the temporary interhospital linkway was unveiled to stakeholders during a review session.

The purpose of the session was to review the proposed solution for maintaining a link between Westmead Hospital and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead during construction of the central acute services building.

A wide range of patients and staff use the linkway, the most critical are newborns requiring heart surgery at The Children’s Hospital at Westmead within 30 minutes of being delivered at Westmead Hospital.

Representatives from Western Sydney Local Health District, The Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network, SafeWork NSW, the Master Builder’s Association, The Westmead Redevelopment Expert Review Group, Health Infrastructure, and members of the Westmead Redevelopment project were in attendance.

“Initially we believed that the existing linkway would be demolished and that no temporary linkway option would be available. However, in partnership with our main works enabling contractor we have found a way for a temporary linkway to be designed and constructed,” senior project direction Justin Woodcock said.

“The Westmead Redevelopment recognises the critical importance of maintaining access between services throughout the next four years, so considerable resources are being invested so as to preserve a functional link between the two hospitals.”

“Our challenge will be transitioning between the two linkways with minimal disruption. Our goal is to make the switch-over a seamless conversion,” project manager Neville Abbott said.

“It’s also important that we factor in the requirements of clinical services in the design of the temporary linkway. Simple design elements such as floor gradients and corridor widths are major considerations for us in ensuring the structure is fit for purpose and provided a safe transition for patients between facilities.”

The next phase of planning for the temporary linkway will involve finalisation of a risk management plan based upon the feedback provided from the review session. Preparations for the construction of the temporary linkway will commence later this year.
Westmead will become Western Sydney’s economic powerhouse with a cluster of up to 50,000 knowledge jobs by 2036, according to a report: Westmead Innovation District, Building Western Sydney’s jobs engine, commissioned by the Westmead Alliance*

Minister Rob Stokes launched the Westmead Economic Study at a Sydney Business Chamber lunch on Tuesday, 19th of July 2016.

The study highlights Westmead’s unique features of the precinct and the opportunities for investment from health technology, allied health and innovation businesses, which are interested in linking with the precinct’s research, education and health developments.

The report highlights that Westmead is about to become much larger. More than $3.4 billion has been committed by government, universities and the private sector to upgrade and expand the precinct’s health services, education and medical research facilities over the next few years.

“We are keen to engage with business and the services sector to attract investment to Westmead for the delivery of excellent health services in a highly liveable urban environment,” said Danny O’Connor, Chief Executive Western Sydney Local Health District.

Doctor Michael Brydon, Chief Executive Officer Sydney Children’s Hospital

Network noted, “The innovative plans we are making today at Westmead will have a profound impact on paediatric clinical care, research and education on a global scale.”

“At Westmead businesses have the opportunity to work alongside some of the World’s pre-eminent scientists and clinicians with the most advanced research equipment available,” said Professor Tony Cunningham, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research.

To read more and to download a copy of the report go to investwestmead.sydney.

This website will be updated with event photos and video soon.

*Westmead Alliance members who contributed to this report: Children’s Medical Research Institute, Cumberland Council, University of Sydney, Western Sydney Local Health District, Western Sydney University, City of Parramatta Council, Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network, Sydney Business Chamber, Westmead Private Hospital, The Westmead Institute for Medical Research and UrbanGrowth NSW.
Important information on our works

- Please be patient, there will be disruption on the campus over the next five years.
- Check signs around your usual parking area for upcoming changes as the project progresses.
- Follow instructions from site staff.
- Walk only on marked paths.
- Report any concerns or questions you have to the Project Office – 1800 990 296

Works On Site

- Car park P6 and adjacent roads will be closed for the duration of Saturday, 23 July. Access will be available again from Sunday, 24 July.
- Changes to pedestrian route. Car parks closed for construction.
- Disruptions along Institute Road continuing. Traffic control in place. Please follow the instructions of traffic wardens.
- Car parking construction. Access to Oval is closed until the new car park is opened in August 2016.
- Infrastructure upgrades underway. Early works for the new helipad are currently underway.