

Community Reference Panel meeting

Session summary // Environmental Impact Statement briefing round two

Fifteen Community Reference Panel members attended a second briefing on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Stage 1 State Significant Development application for the new hospital, following commencement of the public exhibition of the documents by the Department of Planning and Environment on 1 November 2018.

Panel members were provided with a general project update, including the progress of the Functional Briefing process, and met with some of the technical experts who contributed to the development of the EIS.

Functional briefings

An update was provided on round two of functional briefings, that are now nearing completion. These sessions have looked at the functional relationships between services, considering issues such as optimising patient safety and achieving clinical and workforce efficiency. They also looked at the floor space needed for each service, and the types of spaces needed for each service to operate.

Patient access and discharge from the hospital has been another key topic, with the Project User Groups (PUGs) looking at the safest, most appropriate ways to get patients into the hospital and to the services they require, as well as the how they will leave the hospital.

Site acquisition

The State Government acquired the site for the new Tweed Valley Hospital on 2 November 2018.

Preliminary works commenced on 5 November, with immediate tasks focused on erecting perimeter fencing and ensuring appropriate environmental control measures are in place; as well as completing the balance of the geotechnical drilling.

Environmental Impact Statement

Panel members had the opportunity to ask questions specific to the EIS content and to speak with several of the consultants who prepared reports for the EIS. There was particular interest in the following areas:

Traffic and transport

- Local road upgrades, including possible future connections
- Increased traffic on the local roads impacting the community
- Public transport

Architecture

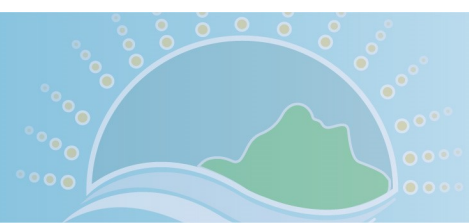
- The orientation of the building on the site
- The connection between the buildings and the landscape
- Utilising the natural slope of the land
- Location of the helipad

Access

- The connection of pedestrian areas within and external to the site
- Number of car parks
- Internal road network separating ambulances and service vehicles from public and staff traffic



Community Reference Panel members at the Environmental Impact Statement briefing on 15 November 2018



Community consultation – how is my feedback being used?

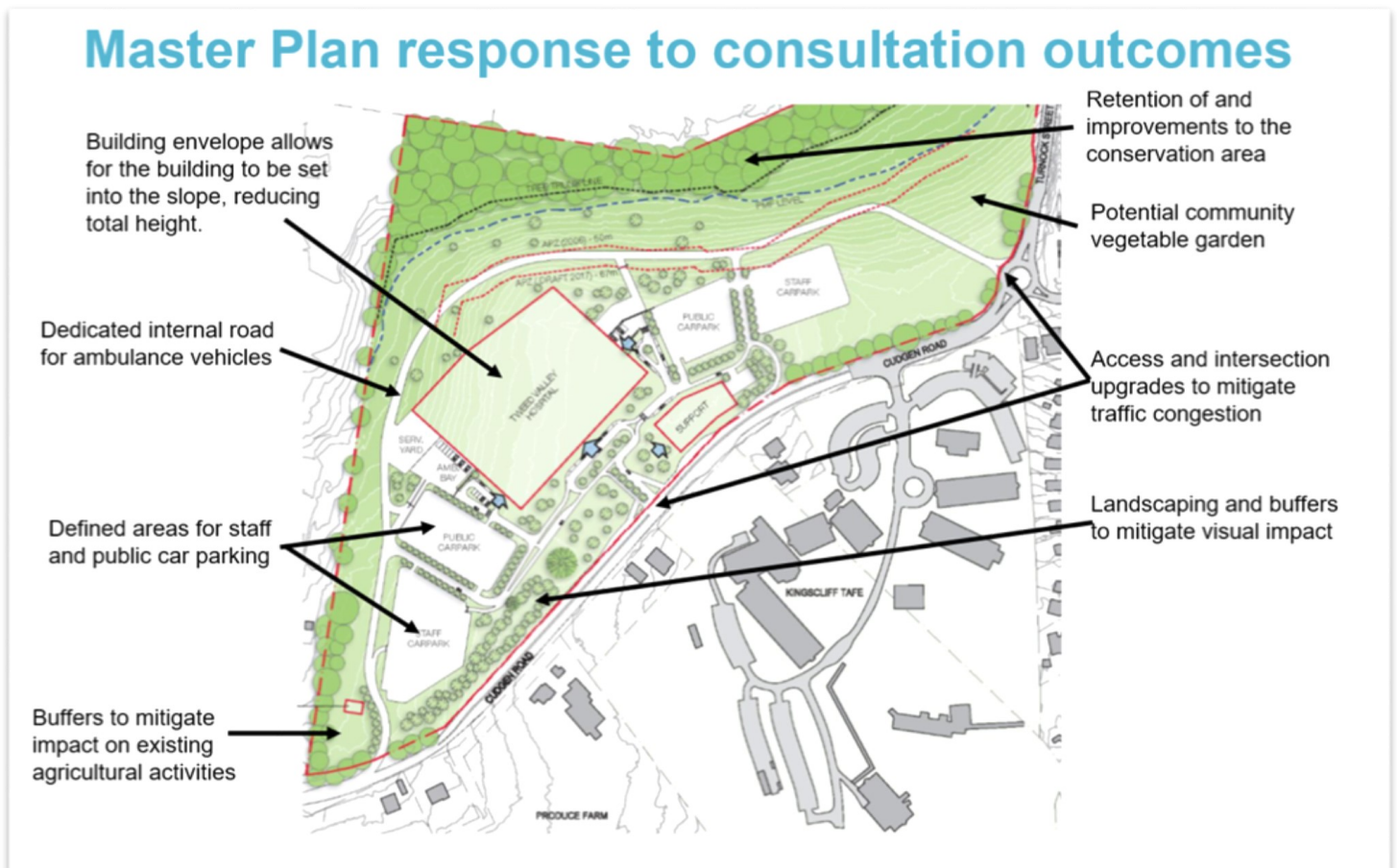
Panel members were updated on the outcomes of community consultation to date, and how this feedback is being fed back into the planning and design of the new hospital.

Information captured from all community engagement activities is provided to the relevant members of the project team, and we have already seen in the master plan a design emerging that reflects what we have heard from our Panel members and the broader community.

For example, we received very strong feedback from community members about the inclusion of a community garden, and this has been included as an option in the

master plan. The following are other examples of where community feedback has influenced the master plan:

- The main building will be designed using the natural slope of the land to reduce the overall building height
- A dedicated road for ambulances and service vehicles will lead to safer pedestrian areas
- There will be dedicated staff parking on-site to minimise any potential impact on surrounding areas, and public car parking will be separated from staff car parking
- There has been a lot of interest in the conservation area to the north of the site, and as a result this will be retained and improved.



Examples of how the master plan has incorporated community feedback throughout the consultation process.

