

Community Reference Panel meeting

Session summary // February 2019

The first meetings of the Community Reference Panel for 2019 were held on 5 and 6 February, attended by twenty Panel members. The meeting was a two-part session, including reveal of the concept designs for the new Tweed Valley Hospital and update on project progress, followed by a workshop on landscaping.

Project overview

An update was provided on the planning application process, following the completion of the extended public exhibition period of the Stage 1 State Significant Development application in late 2018.

431 unique submissions were received from members of the community; as well as feedback from local, state and federal government and other interested groups, for example Gold Coast Airport.

The project team reviewed all submissions received and lodged a response to submissions with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in early February, which has been published on [their website](#).

DPE will now consider the response to submissions as part of their assessment of the planning application and make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning regarding the application. This process is run independently Health Infrastructure.

The design of the new hospital

Architect Mark Healey was excited to share the concept designs with the group.

The concept designs show how the building will sit within the landscape and the general shape of the building.

He talked the group through how the slope of the land has been utilised to reduce the visual impact of the building, which has resulted in only six levels being visible from the main entry on Cudgen Road.

The design responds not only to the natural landscape and the surrounding environment, but also to the need to deliver medical care in the most efficient way, for clinicians, patients and their families.

Workshops attended by clinicians, staff and community members over the past six months have been instrumental in developing and refining the 'block and stack' which



Artist's impression: Main entry from Cudgen Rd
Image subject to further design development

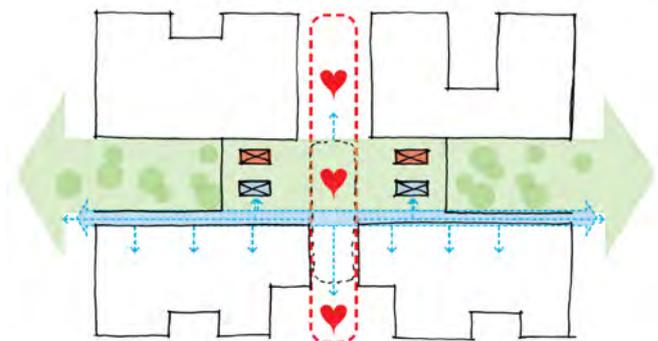
shows key relationships and adjacencies of departments and how we will move vertically within the building (i.e. lift cores).

This 'block and stack' has defined the shape and orientation of the building on the site, with inpatient units designed to maximise access to natural light and views.

The design is centred around a 'hospital heart' that connects the main entrance to the central lobby, and then leads through to the landscaped area at the rear of the hospital.

Courtyards will provide outdoor areas for staff, patients and their families to enjoy, and will have the added benefit of drawing natural light into the building.

Mark reiterated the importance of connectivity within the facility and looking at how patient, staff and visitors will interact with the building.



The building will be centred around a hospital heart, linking the front entrance through to the landscape areas at the back.



Landscaping

Landscaping is a key area of interest for many of our Panel members and landscape architect Matt came along to run an interactive workshop on this hot topic.

To begin, Matt provided Panel members with an overview of the conceptual designs of the landscaping and a look at some of the principles for the landscape design of Tweed Valley Hospital, including the unique character of the site and the need to connect to the surrounding community.

Matt reminded the group that landscaping is not just about plants, but also includes the positioning and availability of shade structures, seating and lighting, amongst others. Landscaping is also a key element in 'wayfinding' by guiding people in a passive way, in particular highlighting how the green spine will create a connection from the carparks, right through to the heart of the hospital.

The issues of transport and access to the site are also explored when determining appropriate landscaping options, with Matt highlighting the existing cycle ways and pedestrian pathways in the local area, and how they may be able to connect through the site.

Panel members then split into teams to look at different areas around the hospital, to brainstorm ideas about how these areas could be landscaped.

These focus areas included:

- Entry Landscape // Health Hub // Campus Lawn
- Landscape Zonal Plan
- Productive Area
- The Green Spine // The Walk
- Northern Landscape // Terrace

Suggestions included different varieties of plants that should be incorporated, such as native plants and plants that create shade, and the ones to avoid, such as palm trees that drop fronds. Other suggestions included shade structures, lighting, spaces for community events, seating, community gardens and including references to the sites history.

Members also raised questions of the ongoing maintenance, with suggestions of planting low maintenance plants and looking at potential partnerships with TAFE as a learning and development exercise for students.

Overall, 166 suggestions and comments were put forward by Panel members, that will be considered as part of the development of the landscaping plan for the new Tweed Valley Hospital.

A summary of the topics raised is on the following page.



Community Reference Panel members workshop ideas around landscaping for the Tweed Valley Hospital site



Common themes

Native flora and fauna	<i>15 related comments</i>
Plant selection should focus on native species and landscape areas should encourage presence of native fauna	
Maintainability	<i>13 related comments</i>
The landscape design should be easy to maintain and material selection should take into account longevity	
Amenity and facilities	<i>13 related comments</i>
The landscape should accommodate areas for seating, and access to facilities such as drinking fountains.	
Protection from elements	<i>11 related comments</i>
Areas of shade should be provided and consideration given to the local microclimate including prevailing winds and storms	
Management and potential partnering	<i>9 related comments</i>
Consideration should be given to the management of community gardens and partnering opportunities	
Lighting	<i>9 related comments</i>
Pathways and gathering spaces should be well lit to enhance security in addition to feature lighting	
Accessibility	<i>8 related comments</i>
Pathway networks should be accessible with non-slip surfaces and able to accommodate Mobility Scooters	
Food production and market garden	<i>8 related comments</i>
Gardens for food production such as orchards and herbs	
Colour and texture	<i>7 related comments</i>
Plant selection should provide a variety of colours and textures, including flowering, all year round	
Community facilities	<i>7 related comments</i>
Facilities for the community, including community garden, market space and areas for meeting and events	
Facilities for children	<i>7 related comments</i>
The landscape should be friendly to children and provide areas for play	
Sensory experience	<i>6 related comments</i>
The landscape should engage all of the senses and include fragrance, views and tactile surfaces	
Water management	<i>6 related comments</i>
The design of the landscape should consider water management principles and drought resistance plant selection	

