

Project and design update

COMMUNITY REFERENCE PANEL

In early August, the project architects presented to the Community Reference Panel sharing the updated designs of the new Tweed Valley Hospital, including the hospital's façade and planned colour palette.

The session also saw the project team present back to the Panel on how their feedback and ideas had been incorporated into the planning and designs for the new hospital.

Design update

With the schematic design process for the new Tweed Valley Hospital nearing completion, the building's internal and external finishes including colour and materials are taking shape.

Project architect Mark Healey took the opportunity to share the progress on the finishes that will be used, giving the Panel a sneak peek at the interior colour palette.

The inspiration for the design of the façade and the earthy colour palette has been drawn from nature in the local area, with specific references to the site. The brown and grey tones will be complemented by the soft timber look of the hoop pine, a native to the Tweed.



The native hoop pine will be a key feature throughout, both in the landscaping strategy and the interior of the building. A strip of hoop pines will feature at the main entrance to the site.

Stone, concrete and metals are just some of the materials that will be used in the external façade to create different levels of interest and to assist in defining the different hospital zones and areas.

Panel members were excited to see the new designs and embraced the colour palette, with the focus on the hospital reflecting the local environment seen as a real attribute.



Above: The proposed colour palette for the new hospital

Left: The latest iteration of the façade design

Mark also shared the updated hospital campus plan with the Panel, which shows where the main hospital building, the health hub, parking and internal roads are all located and how people will move around the site.

The landscaping and placement of buildings naturally create pedestrian pathways and routes through the site, guiding people to their destination.



Community Reference Panel feedback

HOW IT HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO PLANNING AND DESIGN

Wayfinding

Panel members attended focus group sessions on wayfinding in March 2019, hosted by Urbanite.

These sessions looked at how people get from point A to point B, and considered how signs, colour, different materials, landscaping, artworks and sculptures can all be used to make the journey clearer.

There was a clear recognition from the group that a combination of different wayfinding strategies were needed, to suit the diverse needs of the different visitor groups. This, along with a range of other outcomes from the sessions have been incorporated into the wayfinding strategy for the Tweed Valley Hospital, for example:

- Colour will be used to clearly define different hospital areas (i.e. red for emergency and different coloured lift cores for ease of identification)
- Signs will be strategically located before all key decision points (e.g. the main intersection) to direct users into the hospital campus and reassure visitors that they are travelling in the right direction
- Visual cues, such as colour, sculptures and artwork, will be used to create landmarks and assist with wayfinding.

The wayfinding strategy will be released for public comment as part of the upcoming Stage 2 State Significant Development application.

Landscaping

The landscaping workshops were held in February 2019 and considered all landscaping requirements, from planning through to shade structures, lighting, seating and community spaces.

The panel looked at how landscaping can be a key element for wayfinding, such as the placement of a sculpture or artwork, or the planting of a particular type of tree.

The outcomes from the workshops have been included into the landscaping strategy, for example:

- Seating will be provided throughout the hospital and the campus
- Therapy gardens are being considered in specific courtyard spaces, along with the opportunity to establish a community garden on the campus
- A range of community spaces are proposed including the Village Square, the Green Spine, The Entry Plaza, and Northern Terrace
- Shade structures and weather protected walks are included in the strategy.

The landscape plan reflects the strong consensus from the group favouring native species in the plant selections. Additional species that are common in the area and provide seasonal variation will also be included. Planting will be low maintenance and plants will be chosen that minimise ongoing irrigation requirements.

The landscaping strategy will be also released for public comment as part of the upcoming Stage 2 State Significant Development application.

Next steps

The Stage 2 State Significant Development application is underway, and is expected to go on public exhibition for community feedback in October.

