

Customer Service
Land, Planning and Building Services Shopfront
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Mr Ponton

DA202138534 – Canberra Hospital Expansion - 77 Yamba Drive - Block: 1 Section: 58

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to this much needed acute care facility (Emergency) for Canberra and the surrounding regions.

TCH is the largest acute care hospital between Sydney and Melbourne serving residents in Canberra and southeast NSW. The ACT Treasury forecasts Canberra's population to reach 581,000 by 2040 and 703,000 by 2058 (*Population Projections 2018 to 2058 - released January 2019*). The population in southeast NSW is also expected to increase.

While the Woden Valley Community Council (WVCC) **supports** the construction of the Emergency on the Canberra Hospital campus, we have **serious concerns** about the site on the north east edge of the campus (opposite the Garran Primary School).

It is concerning that the site for the Emergency was determined prior to the development of a precinct wide master plan. Issues of concern are:

- poor patient flows and interfaces with existing services because patients are required to be moved across Hospital Road from the clinical wards to the emergency building
- ambulance access from residential roads – Palmer St and Gilmore Cres – instead of the main arterial Yamba Drive
- the closure of Hospital Road stopping vehicle access (including public transport) between the north and south of the campus
- increasing congestion on Gilmore Cres and Palmer St from ambulances, large service vehicles, public transport and general traffic
- safety concerns for the Garran Primary School students
- poor parking options
- lack of comfortable, reflective green areas
- lack of future proofing for acute care, allied health and higher education expansion

The new emergency provides an opportunity to plan the campus and the interfaces with existing campus services (and the broader precinct) to achieve better health outcomes.

Future proofing

The footprint for the Hospital should include the 10 hectares across Yamba Drive (Phillip Enclosed Ovals and the former CIT site) and create a link to the Town Centre for a small shuttle bus and e-bikes. This would connect the hospital to the public transport at the Town Centre and the shuttle bus would provide staff convenient access to shopping and services at the Town Centre.

Higher education, student accommodation, allied health services and a hydrotherapy pool across the road would help build the reputation of the hospital.

This area should be used for health purposes and the unirrigated ovals in the community should be upgraded for the sporting teams. It is about putting the right facility in the right place. See **Attachment A**.

Transport

Parking, traffic congestion and public transport access have been ongoing issues at TCH. These issues need to be investigated and resolved through detailed traffic modelling and planning prior to construction of the new emergency.

Background

In 2008-09 Budget, the ACT Government released the *Your Health - Our Priority* initiative which provided \$300 million to work on a ten year plan for the renewal of Canberra's health services.

Under this initiative the Emergency building was to be centrally located on Building 3 with access from Yamba Drive, there was a medi hotel and a training and education precinct in addition to the ANU medical school.

In the 2016 election, \$500 million was provided for the emergency building which was moved to the current helipad site and named SPIRE.

In December 2018, the former ACT Minister for Health issued a media release announcing that SPIRE will be built between Hospital Road and Palmer Street, stating that the advantage of this location is the minimal disruption to critical care services during the building phase.

As stated by the Chief Minister in his 2016 Statement of Ambition - cities don't succeed by accident or by leaving things to chance – they require design, good governance and great collaboration'.

While the WVCC welcomes the new emergency, we recommend that it is planned in the context of the broader precinct.

Yours sincerely



Ms Fiona Carrick
President
Woden Valley Community Council
18 June 2021

Options for connecting the hospital to the Town Centre and utilising the playing fields for health activities



Note – there are unirrigated ovals in the community that could be upgraded for rugby, football and cricket

