

Glen Innes Hospital Redevelopment

Consultation summary report – April 2025

Background

The endorsed project scope for the Glen Innes Hospital Redevelopment includes new infrastructure for the emergency department, medical imaging, ambulance bays, and a new main entrance and car parking with access from Ferguson Street. The new building will be linked to the existing hospital ensuring all services remain connected onsite. All other services will continue to operate in existing infrastructure.

The design delivers on current priority areas and provides a development zone to allow the full master plan to be delivered in the future with additional funding.

The demolition of the old nurses building that was completed in late 2023 will allow for the construction site compound and support the delivery of the full master plan in the future. The Spanish Flu Building will be retained in this stage of the redevelopment and access for the neighbouring Museum will remain as is from Ferguson Street.



Image: Artist's impression of the new main entry accessed from Ferguson Street.

Consultation

As part of the final planning and design stage, the project team consulted with staff, the arts working group, Glen Innes Severn Council, Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Land Council members, Glen Innes Hospital Auxiliary, and community members during March and April 2025.

Updated artist impressions and a fly-through video were also released during March 2025. Below is a snapshot of the consultation and also the feedback received.

12 meetings/ workshops held	~60 people attended the community pop- ups	342 people visited the project website	1500 views of the fly-through video on YouTube
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Table 1: Feedback received during the consultation held in March and April 2025.

Feedback received	Our response
Disappointed that the entire hospital is not included in this redevelopment, but agree that the emergency department is a priority for improvement	This stage of the redevelopment will deliver a new and expanded emergency department, new medical imaging department, ambulance bays, mortuary and main entry. The master plan for the entire site has been developed and is subject to additional funding being provided.
Like the colour and choice of bricks for the new building	The architects drew their inspiration for the materials and colour scheme from the local environment. The main lighter brick colour reflects the local stones and boulders, and the darker brick colour used in the landscaping detail pays homage to the brick colour in the existing hospital building.
Making the main entry welcoming and inclusive of all cultures	This is a priority for the redevelopment. The main entry and public spaces are also priority areas for arts integration.
Drop-off zone at the main entry is great	Providing the drop-off zone allows patients to be set down at the main entry and moved into the waiting areas and the car can then be moved to the available parking.
Providing indoor and outdoor waiting spaces particularly for the emergency department	Providing appropriate waiting space is an important consideration in the design and has been workshopped with staff and stakeholders. The main entry has outdoor waiting space, and there is waiting space near reception.
Bringing natural light into the building	This is an important design element from Hunter New England Local Health District's Emotional Design Brief. The new building features large windows on the eastern aspect to bring natural light into the main entry and reception spaces.
Concerned about the main entry being off Ferguson Street due to the vehicle movements including trucks	A traffic report has been prepared, and engagement has occurred with the appropriate stakeholders on the road access arrangements. The project team will share further information on the access as this is finalised.
Ensuring the mortuary is not located beneath patient areas	The mortuary location is underneath the new building in the under-croft area. The mortuary is not located under any patient or clinical spaces.

Feedback received	Our response
Like that the new building connects into the existing hospital	As the site slopes considerably from south to north, the new building will link in with the existing hospital on level one (the inpatient unit level). This will locate most services on the same level. The public will still enter the new main entry off Ferguson Street on ground level.
Including the community in an arts project for the hospital	A collaborative arts project is being investigated with further details to be shared as this progresses.
Ensuring safe parking options for staff	The car parking strategy is being reviewed with the hospital to ensure safe parking options for day and night staff.
Important to maintain access for the Museum and Historical Society especially for visiting buses	Access is being maintained for the Museum site as it currently stands, and there will be clear signage in place.
Ensuring the plants for the landscaping are locally sourced	The landscaping design will include locally sourced plants that are acclimatised.
Great opportunity to make the main entry and landscaped areas a nice public space	As part of the arts strategy the new main entry will feature arts integration to welcome in patients, staff and visitors.
How soon can the tender to seek a builder be released	The project team are finalising the design and expect to release the tender during Q3 of 2025.
Great to have this new infrastructure but also need to have the appropriate medical workforce	While not within the scope of the redevelopment project the project team has noted this feedback and will pass onto the Local Health District and the Ministry of Health.



Image: Artist's impression of the new building (lighter brick) showing the connection to the existing hospital building (darker brick).

What's next?

The project team is developing the detailed design, which includes the last detail of each room within the redevelopment. This is the final step in the overall planning and design phase, and once completed the design will be included in the project's planning documentation and placed on public exhibition. In parallel to the planning approval process, the main construction works contract will be released for tender.

The community will continue to be updated as the planning and design phase is finalised, and the project moves into the delivery (construction) phase.

More information

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Image: Artist's impression of the main entry and drop-off zone, with the Museum buildings visible in the background.