



3 April 2023

Dear Resident

RE: Proposed Temporary Helicopter Landing Site at 92 Albatross Road, Nowra

I am writing to inform you about an upcoming planning application (a Review of Environmental Factors) by Health Infrastructure for the proposed temporary relocation of the Shoalhaven Hospital helipad from its current location at the former Nowra Park, to the existing Rural Fire Services (RFS) helipad at the Shoalhaven Emergency Management Centre (EMC) at 92 Albatross Road, South Nowra for the period of the construction of the new hospital. You have received this letter because you live near the EMC.

As you may be aware, the NSW Government is in the process of delivering a redeveloped hospital for the Shoalhaven community. A State Significant Development Application (SSDA) was lodged with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment in mid-2022 seeking approval for the redevelopment, including a rooftop helipad on the proposed Acute Services Building.

Once the SSDA is approved and the Acute Services Building is under construction, a temporary helipad will be required to ensure rapid transportation is still available for critically ill patients in need of urgent medical care during the redevelopment. This service is of the utmost importance to the life and wellbeing of Shoalhaven residents.

The most up-to-date statistics show the current Shoalhaven Hospital helipad receives approximately seven helicopters per month. This figure has been consistent in recent years; however, Health Infrastructure will consider the impacts of up to 10-15 helicopters per month, which allows for a slight increase in future demand.

Several locations for a temporary helipad were considered, including at HMAS Albatross and West Street Oval. After detailed investigations and planning led by specialist aviation consultants, it has been determined that sharing the existing RFS helipad site provides the optimum temporary location for the hospital's helipad during the construction period. A key reason for this was the importance of being close to the hospital to maximise patient safety.

NSW Health has been working closely with Shoalhaven City Council, the RFS, Ambulance NSW and hospital doctors, and following the Council meeting on Monday 13 March 2023, all stakeholders have now provided 'in-principal' agreement for the temporary helipad to be located at the RFS site at the EMC.

Health Infrastructure will now prepare the REF planning application to secure the relevant planning approval to temporarily use the helipad from the end of April 2023 until construction is completed in 2026. This REF process includes a targeted consultation program with adjoining residents, commencing with this letter. Formal notification of the REF will shortly follow, allowing submissions to be made to that process.

If you would like additional information about the REF planning application, have any questions or concerns, or would like to speak to a member of the project team about the Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment, please don't hesitate to email HI-shoalhavenredevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au.

Kind regards

Michael Bellman
Senior Project Director
Health Infrastructure