

## Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment

### Responses to REF notification letters posted 14 July 2023

**From:** Heather and Peter Vernon <[hevpete@bigpond.com](mailto:hevpete@bigpond.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, 23 July 2023 11:38 AM

**To:** HI-Info <[HI-Info@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HI-Info@health.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment

Hello Jacqueline

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the re-vamped development proposal. We live in Reservoir St opposite the new emergency entrance (for emergency vehicles).

We would like to make the following comments:-

- Given the general carpark/ entry to Emergency is off Anzac Parade, we would hope this will be clearly signed to indicate this is where people enter. Otherwise we are concerned that people will try to enter from Reservoir St and not then be able to access the Front of House for Emergency.
- It would be highly recommended that the signs on Reservoir St side are clearly indicating this is the entry (limited) for other parts of the hospital (eg inpatient, staff?) and NOT for access to Emergency/ Maternity/ G Ward etc or there'll be an issue with ambulances trying to access the same entryway. Currently the signage is confusing and every weekend people ask us where they need to go for entry to emergency even now after many years. If someone is new to town or passing through, it's not very clear. So we hope the new development will come with clearer signage.
- Currently Community Health is within the Rural Health Centre. The updated diagram doesn't indicate where Community Health is proposed to be located. If it's going to stay where it is, this should be included on the diagram.
- What is proposed to be where Community Health was ("Former Community Health")? Will this just be more office space? If so, this should be stated on the diagram instead of Former Community Health which tells us nothing of its new purpose.
- The building on the corner of Reservoir St and Anzac Parade (Staff Accommodation)- is planned for what exactly? Given it's partly used for Coal Health Services and there's a new 3 houses Doctor's Block on the corner of Reservoir and Marquis Sts, what staff would be accommodated there? It seems like a potential waste of space for the few who would need to stay there. What other services are earmarked for its use?
- In order to make the safe access for emergency vehicles into Emergency (off Reservoir St), we assume at least two trees will need to be removed. We accept that this is necessary but we'd hope that the one on the left of the Emergency entrance be spared if at all possible. We accept that the gumtree behind the current Day Centre will need to go. All of these trees have had koalas here and there and they are a stunning site when all in bloom. Having said that, we respect progress. We just hope that only the essential trees are removed.
- Is there any sense of the time frame for the development?

Again, thank you for this opportunity for comment. We look forward to this re-development and all that it may bring to Gunnedah. It's disappointing we are losing some other services but we also respect that we are just town with needs and budgets are limited.

We look forward to your reply.

Heather & Pete Vernon

**Suggested response – drafted 25 July 2023 (approved by LHD – Connie Matthews/Ramsey Awad/Susan Heyman and HI – Jackie Hawkins)**

Dear Heather and Pete,

Thank you for your email sent on 23 July 2023 in response to the Gunnedah Hospital Redevelopment planning process. I'll respond to your feedback under the subheadings below.

### ***Access to the hospital site***

As you have noted, the access from Reservoir Street adjacent to the new emergency department is for emergency vehicles only and there will be clear signage indicating this. Please note further along Reservoir Street towards Marquis Street there is a separate entry and exit point for hospital services vehicles. Access for the general public to the main carpark is from Marquis Street, while access to the emergency department for the general public is from Anzac Parade.

In addition to enhanced clinical facilities, a key goal of the redevelopment is simplifying access and improving signage. There will also be comprehensive communication prior to opening of the new facility to reinforce the access points for the hospital site.

### ***Community Health location***

Community Health will remain in its current location within the Rural Health Centre and patients/clients will continue to access these services from the main access/carpark off Marquis Street.

### ***Former Community Health area***

The area labelled "Former Community Health" was vacated when Community Health services moved into the Rural Health Centre. It is currently vacant space and not proposed for use within this redevelopment. Hunter New England Local Health District (HNE LHD) may wish to utilise this space for operational purposes in the future.

### ***Staff accommodation***

The existing building on the corner of Reservoir Street and Anzac Parade is currently used for staff accommodation and services operated by Coal Health. The three units on the corner of Reservoir Street and Marquis Street are new staff accommodation facilities delivered by HNE LHD. Both accommodation facilities are highly utilised by visiting staff and clinicians and there are no plans to reduce the accommodation capacity.

### ***Landscaping design***

Any trees that are required to be removed from the hospital site for the construction are replaced to ensure there is no change to the tree canopy. The landscaping design will be finalised over the coming months as the overall design is completed. Your comments about trees on Reservoir Street have been noted.

### ***Redevelopment timeline***

The overall design is forecast to be complete by the end of the year, and some early construction activities are scheduled to occur in late 2023. Construction is forecast to be complete in 2025.

### ***Services provided by Gunnedah Hospital***

There will be no change to the existing services currently provided by Gunnedah Hospital. During the redevelopment there may be some temporary changes to location or access of some services, however all services will remain operational during the construction phase.

Thank you again for your feedback. Further information on the redevelopment including the latest design can be found on the website at: <https://hneinfra.health.nsw.gov.au/projects/gunnedah>

Kind regards,

XX

(HI PD or SPD, TBA)