

4. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

4.9 SCHEMATIC DESIGN

CONSULTATION

The design process of the project has incorporated consultation with community, stakeholders, staff, and people who have lived experience of mental health, their family members and carers.

The project team completed User Group meetings, Co-design meetings and Connection with Country workshops, with representatives from HI, HNELHD, clinical and management staff and members representing consumers, carers, staff and the local community.

Responses from consultation resulted in the following Key design features:

- Building aesthetics and the integration with the ASB and the Tamworth Hospital campus: The building articulation follows that of the ASB, with colours that have been introduced to align with the river bank concept established during the Co-design workshops. The new unit is integrated as part of the hospital while also representing the surrounding landscapes to provide a sense of comfort and safety.
- Staff and public car parking: Parking studies undertaken to determine parking quantities required. Onground parking has been provided as part of the development, including staff and public car parking.
- Ease of access for public, staff & maintenance: The site was selected because it provides the clinical links to the ASB. The building entry is located on the western side of the new development along the pedestrian pathway between the ASB and carpark B. This creates a strong link to the existing ASB main entry and the new unit. A separate entry is provided for staff and maintenance, away from the main public entry.

- Wayfinding and artwork integration: Culturally informed wayfinding motifs throughout the site with particular focus on consumer entry points is incorporated. The Arts Working Group is to facilitate artworks in consultation with the local community.
- Safety and security: Public, patient and staff movement has been reviewed in the user groups during design to ensure user and staff safety. The is reflected in the planning of the unit, internally the visibility from staff stations was discussed to ensure good line of sight, cctv will be used where required. Anti-ligature design fixtures used throughout.
- Integration of indoor and outdoor: The focus is to create the best possible surroundings for patients as well as staff, by ensuring ample light throughout the building, external outlook, access to nature and outdoor spaces. This allows consumers and staff to connect visually with ground, sky and community, acknowledging connection with country principles. Courtyards are provided within the unit for consumers, as well as visual connection to the central atrium. The forecourt design integrates communal and individual nooks for consumers, carers and families creating a new amenity to the hospital campus. The development enhances greater connections and wayfinding. The design connects the Aboriginal gardens, the forecourt, the internal atrium and the adult courtyard which commits to the principle of connecting with country and connecting to the ground.