

## Construction starts on new hospital - hooray!

Community members and local MP Michael Johnsen joined with hospital staff and the project team to turn the first sod on the redevelopment of the Murrurundi Wilson Memorial Hospital in early February. This exciting milestone marks the start of the construction phase of the project.

Hutchies have started on the excavation and services work associated with the construction of the new hospital, which is scheduled to be complete in early 2021. The overall redevelopment project is due for completion in late 2021.

### *Interesting project facts and stats*

- ⇒ Hutchies will be using their own water (not Murrurundi town water) for all site activities, and have installed a 22,500L tank to catch rainwater (we are hopeful!).
- ⇒ The builders are leasing accommodation at the hospital for their site manager Greg Aird, who will be a regular face around town.
- ⇒ Plumbers engaged on the project will be staying at the local caravan park.
- ⇒ There is approximately 350 lineal metres of site fencing set up.



## What's included in your new hospital?

The focus of the redevelopment is on providing modern facilities to meet the needs of the local community.

All existing services will remain and the new Murrurundi Wilson Memorial Hospital will include:

- An inpatient unit consisting of single rooms and a flexible ward
- Emergency services consisting of resuscitation bay, treatment bay and triage bay
- Community health services consisting of consultation rooms, an allied health treatment room and a multipurpose room
- Staff accommodation
- Ambulance bay (for direct access to ED, note this does not replace the Ambulance Station)



## Community Reference Group to be established

We are now ready to commence our Community Reference Group (CRG). The CRG is being formed as part of the Arts in Health initiative for the redevelopment of the Murrurundi Wilson Memorial Hospital.

The goal of the group is to identify opportunities to include culturally appropriate art, such as music, visual arts, and heritage, in the new hospital that have the ability to improve health and wellbeing, and make the new hospital a welcoming facility.

Nominations received during 2019 will be considered, along with new nominations collected during an Expression of Interest process. Please contact Kylie Neville on 0438 254 008 / [kylie.neville@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kylie.neville@health.nsw.gov.au) for more information.

We look forward to working with the community representatives to deliver locally supported arts at the new hospital.



*Artist impression of the new hospital entry*



## Frequently Asked Questions on the project

### ***When will the new Murrurundi Wilson Memorial Hospital be finished?***

To ensure that all health services will continue without disruption, the project will be staged. Construction on the new hospital building will occur first and is forecast to be complete in the first half of 2021, before services are transferred and the new hospital is operational. The final works including demolition of the existing hospital building, construction of new staff accommodation, and landscaping works, will commence in 2021. The overall redevelopment project is forecast to be complete in late 2021. Once construction of the new hospital building is complete, the community will be invited for a walkthrough before all health services are moved over from the existing hospital.

### ***Are water saving measures being used?***

The design of the new hospital includes a number of water saving measures, such as capture and use of rainwater, and the use of ultra-low flow water fixtures. All water required for the construction of the new hospital will be sourced separately to the Murrurundi town water supply.

### ***Why is the old hospital not being retained?***

Retention and refurbishment of the existing Wilson Memorial Hospital was investigated during early planning. However the existing hospital is aged, includes asbestos containing material, has structural issues and is non-compliant with current Australian Standards and the Building Code. This along with aging plant, equipment and facilities means the health service no longer meets Australasian Health Facility Guidelines or reflects contemporary health care. The existing hospital building is within the footprint of the new hospital site and will be demolished once services have relocated to the new facility. The project team acknowledge the connection the local community has with its hospital and are working to ensure the hospital's history is retained while also providing an enhanced level of healthcare services to the community.

### ***How is the old hospital's history being incorporated into the new hospital?***

An interpretation plan will be developed to fully reflect the heritage components of the existing Wilson Memorial Hospital within the new building fabric and landscaping so that the community and visitors can continue to appreciate and experience these heritage values.

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## FAQs continued...

### *Will services be increased, decreased or remain the same?*

All current services will remain, and there will be an increase in primary and ambulatory care services. This includes an increase in rooms for primary and ambulatory care services including allied health from the current two rooms to five rooms. The new hospital's design also provides flexible spaces that can be used for outreach services and clinical interventions according to service demands.

## Keep up-to-date

Project newsletters and information will be added to the Murrurundi project page on the MPS Program website at:

[www.mps.health.nsw.gov.au/Projects/Murrurundi](http://www.mps.health.nsw.gov.au/Projects/Murrurundi)

We will also be setting up information displays at the hospital and local council office.

*Photos of the site set-up and start of works—craning in the site sheds, rainfall tank, and earthworks.*

