



Consultation a priority for new hospital

Consultation with staff and the community continues to be a priority on the new Royal North Shore Hospital Redevelopment, said the project's new Executive Manager Alan Tracey.

"We currently have 95 detailed design user groups underway, with doctors, nurses, allied health, administrative and support staff looking at the plans for their departments to make sure they meet the clinical need," Alan said.

"Detailed design consultation on the new Community Health Building is already complete and construction is expected to begin in September 2009."

Alan said the community can expect to see more detailed plans later in the year.

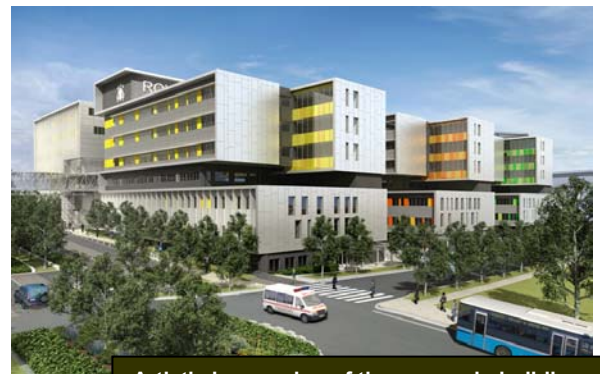
"Once the detail is fine-tuned by the relevant departments, we will be in a better position to take the hospital plans out to the community," Alan said.

A hospital 'roadshow', including the plans, model and video fly-through of the new hospital, would tour a number of community locations later in the year, enabling people to get a better understanding of the scope and scale of the project – the largest health capital works project in NSW history.

For people with access to the internet, the video is now available on the hospital website (see below).



A patient room in the new hospital



Artist's impression of the new main building

View of the construction site from the old Brown Building



Going, going, gone... Vindin House



The old nurses' home, Vindin House (seen here in image 1) was demolished earlier this year as part of the preparations for the construction of the new main hospital.

A number of significant artefacts and items of interest, including the foundation stone, were removed prior to demolition for safe storage, while other items such as the doorknobs and vintage room numbers were provided to groups such as the Graduate Nurses' Association for fundraising memorabilia.

Despite their best efforts, builders were unable to preserve the portico at the entrance to the building (see image 3). The portico was made of concrete, not stone, which made it impossible to salvage.

A comprehensive photographic record is also being made of the buildings prior to demolition to ensure there is a thorough historical record of the site architecture.

Historical and cultural items of interest are being removed for storage and plans for the future display or reuse of items such as plaques and foundation stones is being discussed.

1, 2 and 3: Demolition of Vindin House

4: The vintage metal and enamel room numbers from the nurses' home were given to the Graduate Nurse' for fundraising.



No plan to demolish Vanderfield Building

There is no plan to demolish the Vanderfield Building at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Vanderfield - the original hospital building opened in 1902 and renamed in honour of the late Dr Roger Vanderfield - is located on a site identified for sale in the future to fund the redevelopment of RNSH.

"This sale has always been part of the project and is integral to the delivery of new state-of-the-art hospital and community health buildings to meet our future healthcare needs," said RNS Ryde General Manager Sue Shilbury.

The Vanderfield Building's significance has been recognised and any reuse of the buildings in the heritage precinct is required to be sympathetic to their location, context, history and character.



The Vanderfield Building

Sue Shilbury confirmed that staff concerns about the future of this and other historic building have been raised and there have been ongoing discussions about the options for retaining the Vanderfield Building.

"Fortunately, a final decision on long-term use of this building will not be made until at least 2013. That leaves plenty of time to explore the possibilities for the future of the Vanderfield Building," she said.