



Northern Rivers Area Health Service



Owl Research and Marketing Pty Ltd

## Byron Shire Central Hospital - Community News Update

March 2002

### New Byron Shire Central Hospital

#### Planning well in hand

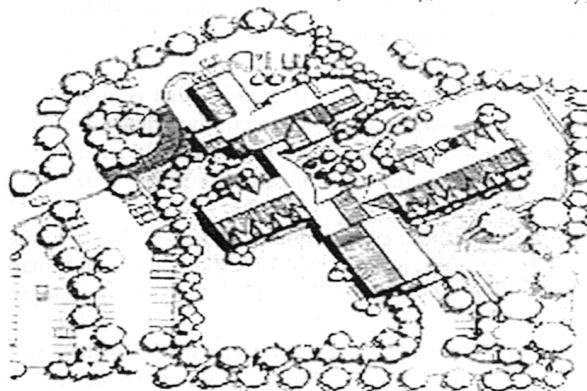
In November 1999, the Brunswick Valley and Byron Bay Community Consultative Committees agreed to support the concept of one central hospital for the Byron Shire. A subsequent letterbox drop conducted throughout the catchment area of Byron and Mullumbimby hospitals also gave support to the project.

This initiated the planning to develop one central hospital. The new 54-bed Central Hospital will replace the ageing facilities at Byron Bay and Mullumbimby and provide the residents of Byron Shire with an enhanced and expanded range of services. The new purpose-built, complex, will offer:

- \* A 54-bed capability
- \* A 4-bed birthing centre
- \* Expanded surgical services
- \* Enhanced pathology services
- \* Improved radiology services
- \* Chemotherapy services
- \* 24 hour/7 day a week 4 bay Emergency department

The new central health facility will incorporate an expanded community health and outpatient service designed to address key health issues. This includes drug and alcohol, mental health, early childhood and community nursing, dietetics, speech pathology, physiotherapy and expanded dental service.

There will also be community health units based at Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores and Bangalow.



*This is purely an artist's concept sketch of a rural hospital facility and is not intended to be an accurate representation of the new Byron Shire Central Health Service*



## Community Consultation



### Your chance to have a say

Whilst the new Byron Shire Central Service is now well down the track in terms of planning the services and facilities to be provided, the actual site of the new hospital is still to be selected.

In January, Northern Rivers Area Health Service commissioned a Sydney-based research consultancy, OWL Research and Marketing, to conduct a range of community consultation processes. These include face-to-face meetings, focus group discussions, workshops, community briefings, telephone interviews, and self-completion questionnaires (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

Now is the chance to have your say on the criteria that will be used to select a site for the new hospital. Just complete the questionnaire at the end of this newsletter and mail it back to OWL in Sydney.



### The Importance of "Criteria"

When choosing a new site, for a health service, school, prison, or any major structure, the start of the process is to develop a range of criteria that describe the characteristics of the ideal site. These might include land size, shape and how flat it needs to be. Other criteria can include distance from the nearest town, whether the land has electricity and sewerage, Aboriginal significance, or whether it is subject to periodic flooding.

It is also important to think about who will be using the facilities. Doctors, health care workers, patients carers and visitors, all need to be able to access the site easily, so issues like roads, on-site parking and available public transport have to be considered.

In the country, as with the new Byron Shire Central Hospital, there may also be special rural issues to consider regarding other possible uses for the land such as for prime agriculture or other farm uses.

Then all these criteria must be "weighted" - that is given values relative to their importance. Once the final list is agreed, the criteria are publicised in the media. Any landholder who believes they have a suitable piece of land which meets most (if not all) the criteria, can offer it for consideration.

So please keep all these considerations in mind when you are filling out the questionnaire. It's not just a matter of sticking a pin in a map mid-way between all the towns and villages. There's much more to be considered.

The Northern Rivers Area Health Service, (NRAHS) values your input into this process and is seeking your feedback. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the process, please contact Sigrid Patterson on 66207601, Site Selection Project Officer, NRAHS.

# Byron Shire Central Hospital Questionnaire

We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to tell us your view about the criteria for selecting the site for the new Byron Shire Central Hospital. As you might already be aware, there are plans in progress for a new public hospital to be built in the Shire (see attached newsletter for more details).

The purpose of this community consultation is to ask Shire residents their opinions about the criteria necessary for the selection of a site, so that the needs, wants and aspirations of as many people as possible can be taken into account.

Consequently we would like to hear from you, via this questionnaire **before Thursday 28th March 2002**.

Once you have completed the questionnaire, please fold it, seal with tape where indicated and post it back to OWL Research. NO POSTAGE STAMP IS NECESSARY.

PLEASE READ THE ATTACHED NEWSLETTER BEFORE ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS IT MAY HELP CLARIFY SOME OF YOUR QUERIES BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

## Q.1. Where do you live?

(e.g. Byron Bay, Bangalow, Mullumbimby etc)

## Q.2. How long have you lived in the Byron Shire?

Less than 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
5 - 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
11 - 20 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
More than 20 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 4

## Q.3. Which of the following age brackets describes you best?

Under 20 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
21 - 30 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 2
31 - 40 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 3
41 - 50 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
51 - 60 years	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
61+ years	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

It has already been deemed that whichever site is eventually chosen, for practical reasons - it must:

1. Be capable of accommodating a helipad
2. Be flood free or capable of being developed above known flood levels
3. Be relatively flat or gently sloping

Apart from these three criteria, we would like to have your input into a range of other criteria, as follows.

**Q.4. The following list of 15 criteria have been identified as being important in the selection of the land for the new hospital. Please read through the entire list and then:-**

### In the first column

Rank the points 1 - 15  
(where 1 = the most important to you and 15 = the least important to you).

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PLACE A DIFFERENT NUMBER IN EACH BOX  
(I.E. NO POINTS MUST HAVE THE SAME RANKING NUMBER)

### In the second column

Imagine you had 100 points to divide amongst this list.

How many points would you give to each criteria? You may divide the 100 points between as many of the criteria as you wish (but you do not need to give points to every one) - just make sure the total number of points allocated does not exceed 100.

	Ranking 1 - 15	How I would divide up my 100 points
* Be low quality agricultural land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Be readily accessible to, and allow accommodation for, emergency services including ambulance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Have the capacity to provide adequate space for car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Be free of significant or sensitive Aboriginal or European cultural limitations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Have a favourable aspect, encouraging positive, curative wellbeing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
* Have a minimum size of 6 hectares (approx 15 acres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

more criteria overleaf

Seal

OWL Research & Marketing Pty Ltd  
Replies Paid 748  
TURRAMURRA NSW 2074



No stamp required

No stamp required

- \* Have the ability to be appropriately zoned for the proposed development
- \* Have water and electricity connected
- \* Be sewered within existing or planned Council regulations
- \* Be suitably located in relation to existing population centres
- \* Be suitably located in relation to anticipated population growth
- \* Be easily accessible to existing major roads
- \* Have public transport connections
- \* Have the potential for incorporating future public transport services
- \* Have the capacity to incorporate suitable space and/or vegetation buffer zones for air, dust, smell, noise or other external interferences.

Q.5. If there are any points we have missed, please tell us below what other criteria you would like to add.

Once you have completed this questionnaire, please fold it and post it back to the address printed at the top of this page to arrive no later than 5pm Thursday 28th March 2002.  
NO POSTAGE STAMP IS NEEDED.

If you wish to make any further comments, please feel free to attach a separate sheet to this questionnaire.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO  
COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

OWL Job No: 944