

# Environmental Summary – Orange Hospital

## Introduction and Site Description

The Bloomfield site is located 3.5 kilometres south of the Orange City Centre. The site is approximately 144 ha and is bounded by Forest Road to the north-west, by Bloomfield Road to the south-east and Huntley Road running parallel to the railway line to the east. The Bloomfield Hospital site is physically separated from the City of Orange by the railway line to the north and east and the residential and industrial zoned land along Peisley Road, one of the Orange main streets.

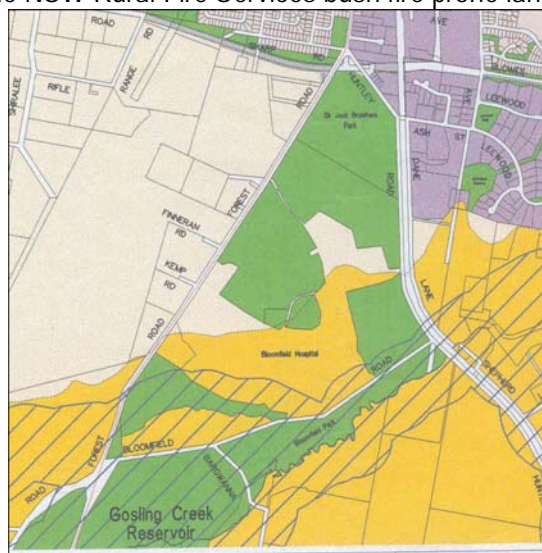
The main access to the Bloomfield Hospital site is from Forest Road, which is the extension of Peisley Road. Immediately to the north of the site is the Sir Jack Brabham Park, a major city recreational area. To the north of the site bordering Forest Road/Peisley Street and east of Huntley Road is located the light industry. To the west of the site is land utilised for general farming and NSW Primary Industry and to the south is an environmental protection zone for the water catchment area supplying Orange.

A large portion of the site area is used as public open space for recreational purposes. The northern part of the site is occupied by golf course and the central part by the bowling club and the cricket oval. All the recreational areas on site are leased by the Ex-Serviceman's Club from the Orange City Council.

## Zoning and Planning

The Bloomfield Hospital site is zoned under the Orange City Council Local Environmental Plan 2000 as follows:

- The southern portion of the site, occupied by the majority of the existing buildings is zoned Rural 1(a) – General Farming overlaid with an Environmental Protection Zone. A large portion of the Environmental Protection Zone is dedicated to a Water Quality Protection Area bordering Gosling Creek.
- Two other portions of the hospital site occupied by existing buildings are zoned Rural 9 (a) – General Farming.
- Northern and eastern portions of the site occupied by the playing fields, golf course, cricket field and bowling club are zoned open space and recreation.
- In the southern part of the site the area occupied by the Linen Services building is zoned Rural – General Farming with part of the site overlaid with the Environmental Protection Zone.
- Surrounding land to the northeast is zoned Rural (1) – General Farming, to the north-east Industrial (4) – Industry and Employment and to the south Environmental Protection (7) – Water Supply Catchment.
- A large portion of the southeastern part of the Bloomfield site is Bush Fire Prone land – Category 1 in accordance with the NSW Rural Fire Services bush fire prone land map.



## **Heritage**

The Bloomfield site is listed on the following heritage lists and registers:

- State Heritage Inventory – Nymagee Lodge and Landscape Features: entry gateway, Elm Avenue and grounds specifically named.
- Department of Health Preliminary Heritage and Conservation Register – February 1992 – Bloomfield psychiatric Precinct: Nymagee Lodge, Gwdir and Yuamgi Buildings, Grounds and Entrance Gates.
- Orange Local Environment Plan 2000 – 12 May 2000 – Nymagee Lodge, Landscape Features: entry gateway, Elm Avenue and grounds.
- Orange Heritage study 1985 – Bloomfield Hospital Nymagee Lodge

## **Topography**

The site is generally bisected by a central north south ridgeline with gentle slopes to the southeast to Brandy Creek and Gosling Creek located to the south east of the site. The site also has gentle slopes from the central ridgeline to the north through the golf course to Sir Jack Brabham Park. While the golf course contains detention basins for drainage from the immediate site these zones eventually drain to Blackmans Swamp Creek in the north.

## **Hydrology**

Gosling Creek skirts around the southern and eastern parts of Orange and supplies three main water supply dams at Gosling Creek dam, Spring Creek dam and Suma Park dam which provide the majority of water for the City of Orange.

Gosling Creek Reserve for water quality protection covers a large portion of the southern part of the site adjoining Bloomfield Road. In the past the creek allowed the hospital to be self sufficient in water.

The axis/ridge in the centre of the site divides it into two catchments. Two dams; one in the golf course and a disused dam now used as a tip near the southern boundary deal with the sites stormwater runoff. Riparian zones and catchments are defined in the City of Orange LEP 2000.

## **Landscape Character**

The site has two types of vegetation. The indigenous vegetation primarily associated with the riparian zone to the south-east of the site and some remnant vegetation in the developed areas; and the introduced vegetation in the form of structural planting dating from the late 1930's to early 1940's.

Major tree avenues have been planted to define axes and entry roads. Most are associated with the lower part of the site and define the hospital site along Forest Road. The scale of the trees provides spatial definition to the site's precincts.

## **Threatened Species Assessment**

Central West Environmental Services were engaged by the Government Architect's Office to perform a preliminary Threatened Species Assessment on the site proposed for the new Orange Hospital and associated development. The report found that it is unlikely that any threatened species occur within the study area. Only one threatened species is recorded as occurring within the Orange LGA, which is unlikely to occur on this site. No threatened species have been recorded as occurring within the study area.

The area does contain many large mature eucalypts and although the area is highly weed invaded, some patches of native understorey still persist. These mature trees provide habitat for many bird species and compensatory planting will be undertaken if these are removed. The nearby Gosling Creek reserve would be a suitable place for this purpose.

### **Vehicular Access, Circulation and Carparking**

Bloomfield Hospital has its primary access from Forest Road. This is a two lane rural road with an 80km/hour speed limit and connects to the Orange CBD via Peisley Road. Currently there is a single formal entry to the hospital site from Forest Road.

The Country Club facilities including the golf course have a separate tree lined vehicular access road from Forest Road. There is also a third vehicular access to the site from Huntley Road, which is now less used.

The southern part of the Bloomfield site currently accommodates approximately 145 car spaces in formal and informal parking zones. The northern part of the site has an informal parking area perpendicular to the internal road.