



Auburn Hospital Redevelopment
Major Project MP06-0129

April 2008

Application for Modification of Approval
under Section 75W of the
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

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1. The Approved Project

On 26th January 2007, the Minister for Planning approved a Project Application for the Auburn Hospital redevelopment which gave approval to the following:

- (1) Staged demolition of existing structures and removal of site vegetation;
- (2) Site preparation including excavation and decontamination;
- (3) Construction of a new 23, 000m² (approx) 184-bed five (5) storey hospital accommodating an emergency department, medical and surgical in-patients, and paediatric, maternity, new born care and high dependency patients;
- (4) Associated site infrastructure including a total of 150 temporary car parking spaces on the Arthur Stone Annexe and Main Hospital Site;
- (5) Retention of the existing single storey Geriatric / Aged Day Care Service Building on the Arthur Stone Annexe;
- (6) Establishment of new site access and cross over locations; and
- (7) Implementation of soft and hard landscaping.

At the time of this approval the position for the relocation of the existing communications equipment from the tower building had not been finalised and was not specifically approved.

2. The Proposed Modification

The location for this equipment has now been finalised and approval is sought for the construction of the communications tower as a key part of the hospital.

The Communications Tower will form essential infrastructure for the operation of the Auburn Hospital. The tower itself will support essential radio communications equipment for Sydney West Area Health Service (SWAHS) enabling effective radio transmission coverage for local health service communications such as Hospital Paging and Security as well as critical point to point data services between the new hospital and neighboring health facilities.

The tower is approximately 21.800 metres above the communications room roof to top of structure and covers an area of approximately 6.6 m² at roof level (excluding antennae at higher levels). The structure itself is essentially four (4) steel poles arranged in a square with internal working frame and cable trays. At roof level the tower will be enclosed with secure access to ensure safe work practices.

The location of the tower to the top of the new building is taking place only to accommodate the relocation of the existing equipment from the roof of the current hospital. The addition of a communications tower to the top of the new hospital is required to maintain the existing equipment at its current height (approximately), thus maintaining the existing 'lines of sight'. Without the addition of a communications tower to the top of the new hospital the 'lines of sight' will not be achieved and the equipment will not be able to function in the way they currently do thus failing to deliver the necessary level of service and security for staff and patients alike.

A full explanation of the technical and operational functions of the tower is attached to this application at Appendix A. Additional information including a Site Plan showing the infrastructure on the roof (Dwg: A-1124 rev 01), 3 Dimensional rendered perspectives and

Elevations and Plan Drawings with dimensions (Dwgs: A-1125 rev 04, A-1126 rev 05) is attached in Appendix B.

An Electromagnetic Magnetic Radiation (EMR) report showing the impact on surrounding areas is attached in Appendix C in this matter, it should be noted that the expected levels of radiation emission, once the site is established, are anticipated to be of a similar level to the existing communications equipment in operation on the roof of Auburn Hospital.

3. Environmental Impact

As can be seen from the plans and drawings attached, the proposed modifications has a minimal environmental impact on the receiving environment. The modification is requested to ensure the safe and secure operations of the hospitals communications equipment.

The facility has been designed to minimize height as much as possible while not impacting on the function of the hospital and the surrounding health facilities. Its design is architectural in nature to improve the view towards the hospital without compromising its function. All hospitals have communications equipment in one form or another. While the old hospital building did not incorporate a tower structure it was significantly larger in bulk and scale than the approved facility and the communications tower, while more visible as a communications structure is a significantly less visual impact on the streetscape and surrounding environment than the previous building.

Given the important nature of the communications tower on the operation of the hospital and the significant reduction in bulk and scale of the new hospital, the proposed communications tower is considered to have minimal environmental impact

As noted in the attached EMR report, there is no increased EMR within the receiving environment and the tower will comply with the ARPANSA Standards (RPS3) and the RF Human Exposure Limits as specified by the ACMA Licence Condition Determination (LCD).

4. Conclusion

The construction of the proposed communications tower on the approved Auburn Hospital is considered to have minimal environmental impact and is an essential piece of infrastructure for the efficient and safe operation of the hospital.

On that basis, NSW Health looks forward to the Ministers favourable consideration of this application.



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