

Submission Re: Bowral Hospital Redevelopment

The proposed works are basically a replacement of existing bed numbers and services that exist presently, and in actual fact, have been such for the best part of two decades.

The operating theatres in fact are close to 60 years old!

The proposal, as it stands, does not address the findings of the Government's own current Clinical Services Plan and is based in SWSLHD's 2013 Healthcare Strategy to 2021-22. The bed forecast for 2021-22 from the CSP is 136. The difference in numbers cannot be explained by citing changed models in care delivery. Clinical and medical services have not altered so drastically in the last five years to account for such a turn back in bed numbers and the size of the hospital. Nor can an argument that bed numbers is not the way planning is determined as the Governments own documents still cite bed numbers.

The demographic of this area is changing as cited in the CSP yet there appears to be no addressing this in the present works. The only improvement appears to be a hint of rehabilitation services which is greatly needed due to the rapidly aging population of the Southern Highlands.

The plans on exhibition make no reference to the inclusion of the renal unit which has been promised by the Minister and is supposed to be delivered within this project.

Without upgrading the hospital, not a mere replacement, the community is being forced to accept the inevitability of being transferred to referral hospitals in the city. This was not what the community expected and considering the very long list of services cited in the LHD summaries for the 'new' build residents are going to be very disappointed.

This community was shown and promised, in April 2017, at a public meeting held jointly by HI and SWSLHD in Bowral further development of the hospital. This is now another broken promise to this community who believed they were getting a world standard hospital as stated by the Premier in June last year. What residents are getting is a replacement model and not much else.

Originally, demolition of existing buildings was mentioned in the earlier planning which was going to provide the land for the future stages. Now the large conglomeration of buildings that presently exist will remain and start to eat up the hospital's current annual budget. This again leaves the community at a disadvantage as our hospital will go off the radar for another 60 years!

Serious consideration has not been given to the traffic congestion this development will cause in already congested Bowral and the very dense

surrounds of the hospital. Instead of greater reliance on residential parking to service workers cars and delivery vehicles, keeping in mind that in the areas around the hospital this is already at 80-90% full plans should be made by the State Government to purchase from Council sections of Loseby Park along Ascot Road to assist with the 1-2 years of mayhem that will occur. Work people could be bussed to the site from the outskirts as another option. What is important to remember is that this section of Bowral is busy with functions at Bradman Oval, the cricket museum, the private hospital and Bowral Street alone being a main artery within the towns traffic system.

Carpark work has been completed and your own documents state an overall increase in less than 5 car spaces. Staff are already required to park off site to assist with movements on site. This is general madness as there will be an increase in staffing once the building is completed. This along with the large number of vacant building which will have to be rented out or occupied by Health Services being relocated will just exacerbate the already chronic parking problems within this area.

This is another example of poor planning without consideration of lack of infrastructure and impact on the area.

There has also been no meaningful community consultation around this project. Consideration has to be given to this. I personally requested that the numbers of people attending the so-called community information sessions be published. My request was ignored. I attended several of these and in two cases was the only person there – at one time I was there for over an hour! Holding these events in walk-thru shopping centres and calling them information sessions is ridiculous.

The exhibition of documents at the local Council is also a farce if it is suppose to be a meaningful form of consultation. Two large folders containing hundreds of pages and you cannot take them away to a quiet reading area to go through them! Who will stand at the counter for several hours to read over the documents? These documents could have been displayed in a much more user-friendly manner but it would appear that that was not part of a serious effort to engage with the community on what must be the only really significant State Government project in this region for half a century. This process is certainly not a vote catcher.

Edna Carmichael