

1. A hospital has been proposed for the Frenchs Forest site for some sixty years. In the meantime, a parcel of open space and bushland has survived a succession of abandoned and failed state government planning strategies. The ever spreading nature of development in Sydney has changed irretrievably the urban fabric of our city. It is most unfortunate and still inappropriate that this site, covered with its endangered and protected Duffys Forest Ecological Community (DFEC), has to be cleared. A more degraded site (such as the RMS land to the east of Wakehurst Parkway adjacent to the French Forest Business Park), would have involved lesser environmental losses.

2. It is positive to have an addition to a national park, but the proposed offset for the loss of the Frenchs Forest site's DFEC is inadequate. The offset contains no DFEC and is composed of a vegetation type already very well represented in the national park estate. See Peter and Judy Smith, "Review of Biodiversity Aspects of Northern Beaches Hospital Environmental Impact Statement", November 13, 2013 in a report to the community group HEAL Northern Beaches.

3. Buildings should be located on the site to maximise passive solar design principles. The indicative location and block arrangement of buildings in the north west sector of the site does not favour achieving these principles. Buildings should be oriented on a north-south axis rather than east-west that creates a warm and cold side to a building.

4. All built environment elements should demonstrate sustainability principles in terms of construction materials, building life, maintenance, waste minimisation, availability of fresh air ventilation to interiors and minimal reliance on air conditioning.

5. All patient ward buildings should face east and be located adjacent to the stand of vegetation proposed to be retained (hereafter referred to as the Wakehurst Parkway vegetation stand). The 1984 landmark study by Roger Ulrich, "View Through a Window May Influence Recovery from Surgery", (*Science*, New Series, V 224, I 4647, April 27, pp. 420-421) demonstrated the therapeutic and ultimately economic value of even a small view of nature from a hospital window. It is readily available on the internet (see [http://www.ideal.forestry.ubc.ca/frst524/09\\_ulrich.pdf](http://www.ideal.forestry.ubc.ca/frst524/09_ulrich.pdf)).

The positive effects on human health and wellbeing of experience in or exposure to nature has been the lifelong work of many noted researchers and academics, including Rachel and Stephen Kaplan, Clare Cooper Marcus, Nancy Gerlach-Spriggs to name but a few.

The building of the hospital at Frenchs Forest could be an opportunity to create an institution within a healing landscape setting rather than yet another example of 'plonk architecture' (as portrayed in the schematic representation on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure website

<https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/public/b5fe65ca7ab3bec82e11825517a44359/DGR%20drawings.pdf>).

6. The Wakehurst Parkway vegetation stand should include the remnant vegetation stand that is located at the south east corner of the site between Bantry Bay Road and Wakehurst Parkway (and outside the boundaries of the former residential lots). It contains the same features (tall trees with healthy canopies, intact understorey) as the Wakehurst Parkway vegetation stand.

7. The Wakehurst Parkway vegetation stand has outstanding visual resource amenity deriving significantly from its quality of naturalness. This quality is rarely achieved by landscaping after site development. This vegetation stand should be retained **intact** as a screen or buffer for the hospital from the busy surrounding roads. All electricity service wires should be placed underground so that lopping of the tall trees is not required. Eucalypt species do not respond well to pruning/lopping; tree aesthetics, longevity and stability are all compromised.

8. A significant stand of remnant vegetation (minimum 100 metres wide) should also be left along the western site boundary with The Forest High School for the same purposes of screening and buffering. In this area regeneration works would be required as the existing vegetation is more disturbed and has an informal pathway present. A depth of one hundred metres is about the minimum required for vegetation to produce a noise mitigating effect. Vegetation stands of lesser depth do produce (only) the perception of sound mitigation.