

To: NSW Department of Planning & Environment, 13th November, 2019

RE: State Significant Development – Redevelopment of Greenwich Hospital site, 97–115 River Road, Greenwich.

I support and encourage the proposed redevelopment of the Greenwich hospital site with its proposed increase in public medical amenities, inclusion of an integrated medical and seniors' housing model, and establishment of a centre of excellence in gerontology. I note recent amendments to the original plans as outlined in the *Greenwich Hospital Response to Submissions Report* (18 September, 2019).

The following features of the original and amended plans are particularly welcome:

Proposed increase in public medical and allied health amenities.

- The proposed expanded hospital with an increase in medical services and accommodation associated with inpatient rehabilitation, palliative care, mental health and other allied health services would provide the north shore with much needed hospital beds by relieving stress on demand for existing services (as at Royal North Shore Hospital), and help cope with the expected influx of population from many new housing developments. The current wait period for physiotherapy at Greenwich hospital exceeds four weeks leaving many travelling outside the vicinity (to Ryde, Chatswood, Mt Wilga, Belrose) for rehabilitation services.

The inclusion of an integrated medical and seniors' housing model centred on an evidence-based philosophy of care.

- The proposed seniors' housing with easy access to integrated medical services is a bonus for the elderly especially for those who would like to remain living locally in old age. Combining seniors' housing with adjacent aged care beds on the one site reflects best practice in aged care. (The detailed explanation of this arrangement is well articulated on pages 9 and 10 of the *Response to Submissions Report*). This dual styled accommodation allows an elderly couple who may otherwise be separated at the time of illness to remain close together at a time in life when they are most vulnerable.

Proposed establishment of a centre of excellence in gerontology.

- In bringing together clinicians and researchers in the area of gerontology and especially dementia, the lower north shore will have a research facility of equal standing with the world-renowned Cochrane Collaboration. It is noted from page 9 of the *Response to Submissions Report* that “by 2031, the number of people aged 65 or older in northern Sydney is expected to increase to 18% of the population and the need for specialist dementia care is estimated to double in NSW by 2051”.

Many community groups have voiced concerns recently about the lack of infrastructure and services for the increased population from new apartments on the lower north shore. The Greenwich hospital's proposal meets important aspects of these concerns while retaining the hospital site's heritage and vegetation.