

Long Bay Forensic and Prison Hospitals Redevelopment

Community Consultation - Master Plan

SUMMARY REPORT

Background

Justice Health [formally Corrections Health Service] (NSW Health) and the Department of Corrective Services are planning for a new Forensic Hospital and a new Prison Hospital to replace the existing facilities at the Long Bay Correctional Complex.

For the project to proceed there is a requirement for a Master Plan to be prepared for the Long Bay Correctional Complex and considered by Randwick City Council.

Before submitting the Master Plan a community consultation process, facilitated by Mediate Today, was conducted.

This was undertaken to obtain the views of local residents and key stakeholders, to be considered in formulating the Master Plan.

In addition to meetings with key stakeholders the following activities were undertaken:

CONSULTATION ACTIVITY	TIMING
Mail-out, including Feedback Form and project Fact Sheet to adjacent property owners and residents	28 June 2004
1800 free call information line	Opened 28 June 2004
Malabar Precinct Committee Meeting	5 July 2004
Long Bay Community Consultative Committee	6 July 2004
Information Days	Tues 6 July 2004 Sat 10 July 2004

This report summarises the key matters raised by the community and stakeholder consultation and the responses to them.

A number of matters were raised about the Long Bay Correctional Complex, not specifically related to the project, that will be considered separately.

Community Consultation Outcomes and Response

Security

The single most important issue for stakeholders and residents was the level of security for the new Forensic Hospital. Security was not an issue for the Prison Hospital as residents were generally comfortable with the existing arrangements managed by the Department of Corrective Services.

Response

The Forensic Hospital will be under the control of Justice Health and will be managed as a maximum security facility. The security planned for the site includes a five (5) metre masonry perimeter wall, supported by electronic surveillance equipment.

Patients could be detained for long periods. Experience in dealing with forensic patients indicates minimal risk of attempted escape due to their state of health and treatment regimes.

Landscaping/Screening

Good landscaping was seen by residents and stakeholders as an essential requirement for the redevelopment. The main purpose residents saw for the landscaping was to provide screening from the buildings and activities of the Complex.

The area near the nursery was identified for special mention as there are existing resident concerns that need to be addressed that will be further exacerbated by the construction of the Prison Hospital.

Response

A landscape plan for the site will be developed to achieve a balance between the operational requirements of a high security Correctional Complex and the need to provide screening for local residents.

The landscape plan in the Master Plan will identify zones and a description of what is proposed. Other forms of screening will also be considered.

Development

The location of the new Forensic and Prison Hospitals raised a number of issues relating to the design and operation of the facilities:

- The location of the Forensic Hospital close to Anzac Parade.
- Request that the building materials such as roofing and security walls would blend in, as much as possible, with the environment.
- The building height is restricted to reduce visual impacts.
- External lighting be non intrusive on the surrounding properties.
- Operational noise such as Public Address (PA) systems do not disturb residential neighbours.

Response

The Forensic Hospital will be designed to provide single level accommodation for patients with offices for staff on a mezzanine level. To meet the needs for a modern best practice 135 bed forensic hospital requires the redevelopment to extend towards the Anzac Parade boundary fence.

Building materials including roofing and security walls will be considerate of the need to fit in with the surrounding environment and the outlook from adjacent residents.

The operation of the Forensic Hospital will not require the use of a Public Address (PA) system and lighting will be designed to be contained within the grounds.

Environmental

There were concerns raised that the redevelopment would not be required to meet local environmental planning controls. A number of residents also identified the drainage from the site towards Anzac Parade as a problem. Visitor and staff parking for the Forensic Hospital were also of interest.

Response

The redevelopment will be submitted to Randwick City Council for development approval and will be required to meet the requirements set down by Council for stormwater management and ecological sustainability.

The existing problem with stormwater runoff onto Anzac Parade is recognised and will be addressed in the Master Plan.

There will be the same number of entries into the Long Bay Correctional Complex from Anzac Parade as currently exists. The main access to the site will continue to be from Anzac Parade.

Forensic Hospital - Operations

Questions regarding the operation of the Forensic Hospital generally related to security; how the hospital would be staffed; and what would be the patient to staff ratio.

Response

Within the hospital, patients will be clinically supervised by Justice Health. There will be a higher patient/clinician ratio than presently exists. The design will support this model of care.

Security for the Forensic Hospital will be achieved by a perimeter wall as well as by the use of movement sensors and video surveillance.

Construction

Although not part of the Master Plan, residents and stakeholders highlighted the need for the impact on residents during construction to be carefully considered and their interest in further consultation at the time. Residents identified construction as a time when special security measures would be required.

Response

Construction issues will be addressed as part of the Development Application (DA) for the project. The Project Team is committed to further consultation prior to and during construction.

Comments in Support

There were a number of residents who supported the redevelopment to facilitate better treatment for both inmates and forensic patients. There was also some interest in the potential for additional employment at the Hospitals.

Response

Discussions with local residents at the Information Days indicated broad support for the improved facilities for forensic patients and an upgraded prison hospital for inmates provided the key issues of security and landscaping were adequately addressed.

THE DOCUMENTATION THAT FORMS THE MASTER PLAN WILL INCLUDE REFERENCE TO THE MATTERS RAISED AND WILL ADDRESS RELEVANT ISSUES SUCH AS LANDSCAPING / SCREENING, ENVIRONMENT, DESIGN INTENT, OPERATION OF THE FORENSIC HOSPITAL INCLUDING SECURITY.

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