



NEW ROYAL PROJECT

Progress Update, February 2008

What is the New Royal Project?

Tasmania's health needs are changing. Our population is getting older and lifestyle induced illnesses, such as diabetes and obesity, are increasing which is putting extra pressure on our health system. At the same time, new and better ways of caring for people are being developed. With existing buildings dating from the 1940s, the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) was originally constructed to meet models of care which are now obsolete. Recent developments, such as the new Emergency Department, alleviate pressure from some current shortfalls but do not solve the long-term needs of the hospital.

In 2006, a report into the future of the RHH found that the existing buildings were causing inefficiencies in delivering health services. The report recommended a new hospital be built close to or within the CBD, to provide the best opportunity to meet health service delivery needs into the future. The Tasmanian Government took up this recommendation, and planning for the new hospital is now underway. It is expected to take at least seven years to plan and build the new hospital.

How will it help Tasmanians?

The new hospital will not only replace ageing infrastructure, but presents the opportunity to investigate new models of care and take a fresh look at how the hospital will deliver health services. The new hospital will support the Tasmanian Health Plan, which provides a strategic plan to transform the delivery of the state's health services. Planning for the new hospital will be done in conjunction with state-wide health service and infrastructure planning.

What is happening now?

Site investigation: After a detailed selection process, the Hobart Railyards was identified in April 2007 as the most suitable site within the Hobart CBD for a new hospital development.

In late 2007, local consultants Pitt & Sherry undertook an in-depth assessment of the site to fully investigate aspects that might affect the development of a hospital facility. This included investigating potential sea level rise, site contamination and remediation, geotechnical detail and heritage of the site.

The results of the site assessment, to be published in early 2008, will outline the action needed to prepare the site for development, and will contribute important information into the Masterplan Study and Business Case.

Clinical and Service Planning: In 2007, staff and medical specialists from within the RHH were invited to take part in several Clinical Planning Groups, to discuss and develop new models of care for the clinical services that will be provided by the new hospital. Technical Advisory Groups were also assembled to plan support services such as IT, pathology, pharmacy, food services, education and research.

The work from the planning groups will contribute to the development of a Functional Brief and Clinical Services Plan that will establish what services the hospital will provide and how they will be delivered. This will also assist in the Masterplanning and Business Case documents.

What will happen next?

During 2008, the project will develop a Master Plan, Feasibility Study and Business Case. These documents will detail the kinds of services the hospital will provide, how it will integrate with other health services, what the hospital might look like and an estimate of how much it will cost. The Business Case will be provided to government by the end of 2008.

For further information contact:

Website: www.newroyal.tas.gov.au

Email: rhh.redevelopment@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Phone: Project office – 6233 4517