



FENCING CORDONS OFF THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE

Construction has started!

It's all systems-go with the start of construction of the new Wentworth Health Service following the announcement of the main works contractor and sod turn at the end of 2023.

The building site, which is adjacent to the existing hospital, has now been established with fencing and signage installed and a dedicated site office set up. The demolition of several redundant outbuildings is complete, making way for the footprint of the new hospital to be established over the coming months.

Staff and the community will be kept informed with regular updates throughout construction.



DEMOLITION OF REDUNDANT OUTBUILDINGS



ON SITE AT THE BBQ - PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: JAMES DORN, HPAC SENIOR CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR; ALEX PAPPAS, HPAC SITE MANAGER; TIM O'NEILL, HEALTH SERVICE MANAGER, WENTWORTH HEALTH SERVICE; DANIEL TOOTH, HPAC PROJECT MANAGER; JOHN DIMITROULAS, HPAC CONSTRUCTION MANAGER MAJOR PROJECTS; AARON HOO - MOSTYN COPPER PROJECT MANAGER



WENTWORTH HEALTH SERVICE STAFF AT THE MEET THE BUILDERS BBQ

Staff meet the builders barbeque

Wentworth Health Service and LHD staff had the opportunity to meet the building contractors at a barbeque on-site on 24 January, which was hosted by the builders, HPAC Pty. Ltd.

“Hospital staff will be seeing and hearing the builders on a daily basis as the new hospital is built over the next 18-24 months, so getting the chance to meet them and get to know them a little better was a positive way to kick off the year,” FWLHD Redevelopment Change Manager, Jacinta Grose said.

The new health service is being built adjacent to the current hospital, which will be demolished once the new hospital is complete. While all efforts will be made to keep disruptions to a minimum, staff, patients and visitors will be kept informed of any expected impacts of the construction work on hospital operations.

“The hospital staff have been part of the project’s journey from when it was first announced, and all are very excited to see it start to come to life,” Jacinta said.

“A big thankyou to HPAC for hosting the barbeque”.

New life on the river for construction manager and his family

Wentworth has welcomed four new people into their community with the relocation of the redevelopment's Construction Project Manager and his family to the town.

Daniel Tooth, his wife Vernessa and two young sons Walter and Earl made the big move from Sydney in January so they could become immersed into the local community while Daniel oversees the delivery of the project.

Daniel, who has a degree in Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Building in Construction Management, said they haven't looked back since making the move.

"Making the choice between travelling to Wentworth and back to Sydney every week on my own or moving with my family here to live and work was an easy one," Daniel said.

"Wentworth is a great little community and Vernessa and I prefer smaller country towns to the big city, so it was a great opportunity to bring our boys out here where we can all enjoy the fresh air, the beautiful river, long days, and everything else Wentworth has to offer."

Living in a town with a population of just over 1500 people is a big change from Sydney where Daniel and his wife have lived for 25 years, but one they are already embracing.

"Being full-time on site is much better from a project perspective, especially since it's not a 9-5 type job and it also means I can develop much stronger relationships with the hospital staff and local contractors," Daniel said.

"The community has been very welcoming and we are looking forward to getting more involved in the local school attended by Walt, as well as all of the other groups and activities the children will participate in".

Daniel has worked for HPAC Pty Ltd, the redevelopment building contractor, for six years and his role as Project Manager includes overseeing daily site operations, site management and coordination, client liaison, and delivery of the building contract.

Daniel's wife Vernessa has taken on the role of HPAC Project Administrator to provide on-site admin support for the project. Site Manager Alex Pappas has also made the move to live in Wentworth full time while the hospital is being built, and Site Foreman Doug Balcombe will be moving from Canberra in April to join the team.

"Having all of the HPAC site team living and working locally in Wentworth will be a real benefit to the project and we are all looking forward to making this community our home for the next couple of years," Daniel said.

"Seeing the project come together and then leaving behind a much-needed and wonderful asset for the community is what it's all about".



Take 5 with Tim O'Neill, Health Service Manager, Wentworth Health Service



What does your role involve?

My role as the HSM Wentworth Health Service is to ensure the facility runs safely and effectively to deliver safe, person-centred care. It encompasses many responsibilities and includes direct patient care, human resource management, staff learning and development, compliance management, budgets, policy/ procedure and quality improvement

projects development and implementation, data management and other administration duties to ensure the smooth operation of the facility on a day-to-day basis in collaboration with staff, patients and visitors.

How long have you worked at FWLHD/ Wentworth Health Service?

I have been employed in Far West Local Health District since 2000 both as a clinician and as a manager across numerous nursing and midwifery roles and positions. After relocating to Mildura in 2021 I was successful in obtaining the HSM position at Wentworth Health Service.

How involved have you been in the planning and design of the project?

I have been actively involved in the planning and design of the new Wentworth Health Service since taking on the HSM position in 2021. I have worked closely with the General Manager, Remote Health Services, Health Infrastructure and architects throughout the design process and collaborated with staff and the community actively promoting the benefits and updating them on the progress of the redevelopment and proposed service model.

What do you think will be the benefits of the new hospital?

The community will have access to a modern state of art facility with a new Urgent Care Centre, which will reduce the need for people to travel to Mildura for care. The new facility will support Wentworth Shire region with an accessible and community centred health service that is equitable, integrated and culturally appropriate.

What are you most looking forward to in the new facility?

I'm looking forward to working in a modern fit for purpose facility delivering safe, effective and first-class care to the community members of the shire of Wentworth.

How are your staff feeling about the redevelopment?

As the Wentworth Health Service redevelopment has progressed staff are very excited, not just to have a new building but the opportunity it provides them to increase their scope of practice under the new models of care that will be provided.



ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

About the Redevelopment

The NSW Government has committed \$30 million to providing comprehensive, accessible, culturally welcoming and consumer friendly health care services to support the needs of the entire Wentworth community.

The new Wentworth Health Service includes:

- A 19-bed Inpatient Unit
- Primary Ambulatory Care (Community Health Services)
- A new Urgent Care Centre
- A palliative care suite, which includes an inpatient room with a private terrace and an adjacent family lounge with views to the river
- A dedicated space for families which opens to a central, shared courtyard
- A gym with access to an outdoor courtyard
- Outdoor spaces and landscaping, including a Yarning Circle and native plants

Health Infrastructure, Far west Local health District and Wentworth Health Service acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands the redevelopment project stands and pays respect to the peoples of the Barkindji Nation, the Traditional Owners of this land.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE REDEVELOPMENT:

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