Planning Approval for ‘Lifehouse at RPA’ Cancer Centre

The NSW Government today announced it has formally approved construction of the first integrated cancer centre in NSW on the grounds of Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) hospital in Camperdown.

The 10-storey facility, to be known as ‘The Chris O’Brien Lifehouse at RPA’, will be constructed on a cleared site within the western precinct of the hospital complex. The site was previously occupied by the Page Chest Pavilion and Brown Street Outpatients Building.

NSW Minister Assisting the Minister for Health, Frank Sartor said today that the landmark medical facility is estimated to create 295 full-time jobs, in addition to around 400 construction jobs.

“This facility will deliver enormous benefits to cancer patients in a world-class integrated centre that unites clinical research, treatment and education under one roof,” Mr Sartor said.

“Its location within an existing high-quality health precinct means that this facility will be complemented by a suite of other health services offered by RPA.”

The approval includes:

- An integrated medical facility for clinical services and treatment, cancer research, inpatient areas and accommodation (96 beds);
- Support accommodation for patients’ families;
- Intensive care unit (18 beds);
- Operating theatres; and
- Educational facilities.

NSW Minister for Health and Member for Marrickville, Carmel Tebbutt welcomed the announcement.

“We already have a magnificent hospital in RPA and this new cancer centre will enhance the existing health services available to the community,” Ms Tebbutt said.

Lifehouse at RPA is an independent Public Benevolent Institution. The development of the integrated cancer centre has been supported by the NSW Government with a commitment of land and equipment assets, and the Commonwealth Government with $160 million in funding.

The project was assessed by the NSW Department of Planning as a major project under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, because it was a hospital proposal with a capital investment value of more than $15 million.

The assessment process included placing the plans on public exhibition for one month from August 11 to September 10, during which only two public submissions were received.
A total of 61 conditions had been imposed as part of the approval, to minimise the impact of the development.

Mr Sartor said the cancer centre was consistent with surrounding development and the top two levels of the building would be set back from the Missenden Road frontage, in keeping with the existing streetscape.

“The proponent has made around 100 commitments in addition to the conditions imposed as part of the approval, including the preparation of a travel plan to assist in reducing the use of cars by staff, patients and visitors and encourage more sustainable transport options,” Mr Sartor said.

Heritage issues were also carefully considered throughout the process and a number of Page Chest Pavilion plaques of heritage significance would be preserved and relocated to the new Chris O’Brien Lifehouse.

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