



Hon Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning
Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Lands
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council
Leader of the House in the Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL ONE STEP CLOSER

Delivery of the new Northern Beaches Hospital at Frenchs Forest is a step closer with a \$600 million proposal by NSW Health having been accepted as a major project by the NSW Government.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said this was an important step in the delivery of this crucial piece of health infrastructure for the northern beaches and clear evidence the Government is delivering on its commitment to build a new Level five hospital at Frenchs Forest.

“The major project declaration represents the start of the planning assessment process and once detailed plans have been lodged with the Department, they will undergo a thorough environmental assessment process,” the Minister said.

“This process of course includes consultation with Warringah Council and a period of public exhibition.

“The Department’s assessment will also ensure all relevant environmental and amenity issues are considered and appropriately dealt with prior to any approval.”

The proposal by NSW Health Infrastructure consists of 40,000 square metres of hospital floor space including Emergency Services, Imaging, Operational and Clinical support, and accommodation for 198 beds.

Additional expansion phases are also expected in the future.

The site – bounded by Warringah Road to the south, the Wakehurst Parkway to the east, Frenchs Forest Road West to the north and Forest High School to the west – is also a cornerstone of the Government’s State significant site (SSS) proposal for Frenchs Forest that is currently on public exhibition until 28 February.

The SSS proposal seeks to create a strategic centre around the new hospital as outlined in the Government’s newly-released Metropolitan Plan for Sydney.

The new centre would have additional retail and residential capacity, in line with the Metropolitan Plan aim to deliver jobs closer to home.

Mr Kelly said the Department of Planning would consult with Warringah Council to develop a comprehensive set of requirements that NSW Health Infrastructure will need to address in its environmental assessment for the hospital.

“The local community will be kept well informed of the progress of the application throughout the assessment process and, when the plans go on exhibition, I encourage all interested members of the public to have their say,” the Minister said.

All relevant project documents will be made available on the Department of Planning’s website throughout the assessment process at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>
