



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

27 January 2011

Approval granted for university medical research centre

Planning Minister Tony Kelly announced the approval today for the \$108 million construction of the Australian Hearing Hub, a major state-of-the-art medical research and teaching facility, at Macquarie University.

Mr Kelly said the approval of the Australian Hearing Hub includes:

- A six-storey building containing 23,182 square metres of floor space for education, research, commercial and retail uses;
- Facilities including a wind tunnel and anechoic chamber, nano fabrication area and laboratories;
- Academic and research space, offices, library, lecture theatre and café;
- Relocation of car parking away from the main corridor of the campus.

Minister for Science and Medical Research Jodi McKay said the Hearing Hub will be a unique facility for research, training, teaching and learning in hearing and speech-related disorders.

“The NSW Government has provided \$360,000 to bring together three non-profit hearing organisations together with leading researchers at Macquarie University as part of the Hearing Hub.

“The Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre, the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and the Shepherd Centre will benefit from the opportunity to work more closely with leading researchers at Macquarie University.

“These organisations provide important services for people with hearing disorders, especially children, and it’s critical they have access to the best research possible.

“The Hub brings together some of Australia’s leading research teams, the Federal government research organisation Australian Hearing, Cochlear Ltd, and groups from the Sydney arm of the HEARING Cooperative Research Centre to share knowledge and specialist equipment and facilities.”

Mr Kelly said there will be enormous public benefits with the project not only setting the scene for important research to take place, but also supporting 100 construction and 100 operational jobs.

“Its approval is consistent with a concept plan for the Macquarie University campus which was approved in August 2010.”

Mr Kelly said the project would support the growth of the Macquarie Park Specialised Centre which is identified in the Metropolitan Plan for Sydney 2036, released in December.

“This project support the expansion of this university, facilitating development around research hubs, and builds Sydney’s knowledge infrastructure,” Mr Kelly said.

Mr Kelly said the project had been approved by the Department of Planning with stringent conditions.

“Some 71 conditions in all have been imposed to ensure that any impacts during the construction and operation of the facilities are appropriately managed. The conditions address issues like parking, traffic, noise, access and construction hours,” Mr Kelly said.



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Background

- The \$360,000 investment covers the three organisations' rent costs at the hub for the next two years.
 - The Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre has helped more than 2000 people to receive cochlear implants.
 - The Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children provides essential educational services to children with hearing and sight disorders.
 - The Shepherd Centre is a charity that teaches deaf and hearing-impaired children how to speak and listen so they can have the best chance of reaching their full potential.
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