

Our Place | Ahu Taumatua

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF PALMERSTON NORTH REGIONAL HOSPITAL

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Our Place | Ahu Taumatua brings you all the latest information on the redevelopment projects at Palmerston North Regional Hospital to improve capacity and healthcare available in our region.

INTRODUCTION

Work continues to bring Palmerston North Regional Hospital's facilities up to contemporary standards and to a size that supports our community.

Our interim solutions, such as SPIRE, are progressing. Walls in the new theatre area are going up. The area will offer two additional theatres, as well as the district's first interventional cardiac catheterisation laboratory.

Concurrently, long term, strategic solutions are occurring. The construction of a new Acute Mental Health Unit is underway with the ground works for drainage and foundations – see picture below.



Planning for a new Acute Services Block and the reconfiguration of the current main hospital tower block is progressing. Synergia and Te Tihi are working with our clinical teams, community groups and primary/community health providers to develop a Clinical Services Plan covering Palmerston North Regional Hospital. This will set out the health and disability services required, how they should be provided (models of care), where and by whom. The building and reconfiguration plans will be based on this Clinical Services Plan.

Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei
Seek the treasure you value most dearly: if you bow your head,
let it be to a lofty mountain

This whakatauki is about aiming high or for what is truly valuable, but its real message is to be persistent and don't let obstacles stop you from reaching your goal.

Source: www.maori.cl/Proverbs.htm

ACUTE SERVICES BLOCK AND RE-LIFING OF THE CLINICAL SERVICES BLOCK

This project which heralds the redevelopment of Palmerston North Regional Hospital is to get a new name. While the current name reflects what it is about, it is a mouthful to say. We hope to be able to advise the new name in the next issue.

Meantime, work continues to develop a business case to seek Government supporting and funding. What hospital level services are required in our district, and how these will be provided (models of care) and by whom is being worked up and will be documented in a Clinical Services Plan.

The first two of four clinical workshops were held on 21 and 22 March and explored “Unplanned Care” and “Long Term Conditions”. These generated a lot of discussion and future thinking towards opportunities for improving care to the community through system shifts. The workshops had representation from throughout the community, including rural, consumers, health and wellbeing groups, rainbow community, pacific, primary care across the rohe and THINK Hauora. Also represented were Pae Ora staff, hospital staff (SMOs, ADONs, ACNs), commissioning and locality roles as well as the Wairarapa district.

Te Tihi, an alliance of nine Iwi, Hapū and Māori organisations, has partnered with Synergia to ensure Māori needs and aspirations are reflected in the design of our future service system. They have been holding workshops across the district with local Iwi and Māori.

The aspirations for Pacific health and wellbeing in the future was the subject of a Pacific fono held on 20 March. Around 35 people attended and there was much discussion around what was working well and not so well with the current health system. Ideas about how the health system can better support the needs of the Pacific community across the district were also discussed.



SPIRE – STAGE 2

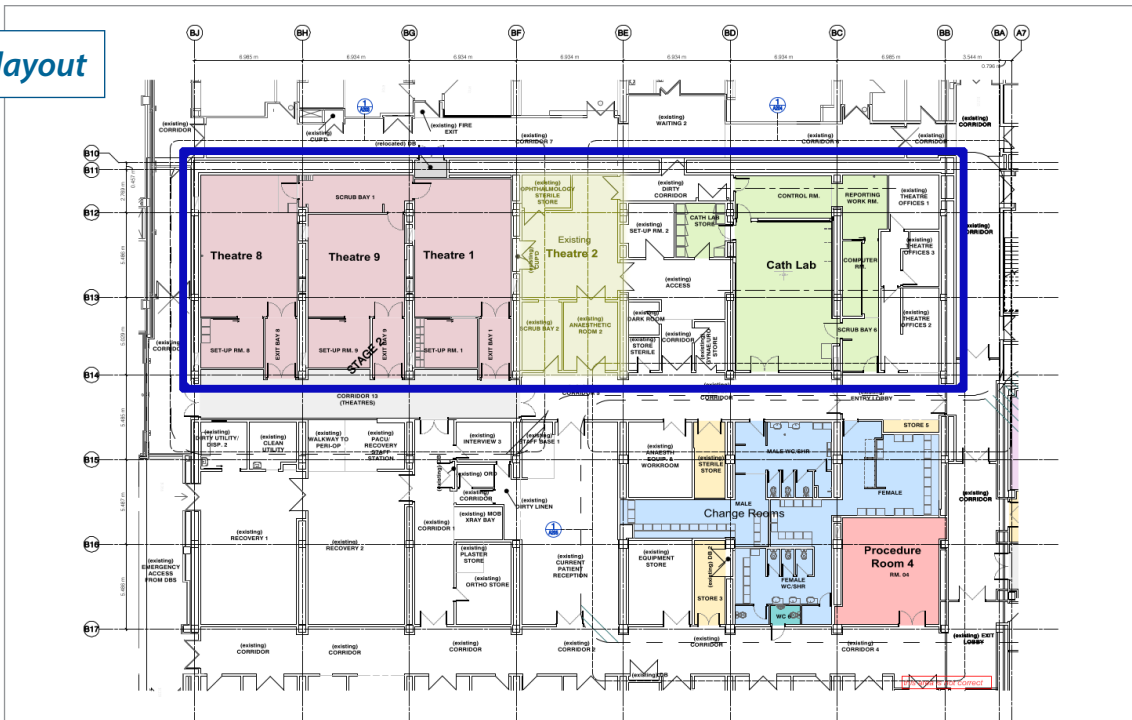
- The district’s first interventional cardiac catheterisation laboratory.
- Two additional operating theatres.
- The fourth procedure room/hybrid theatre.

Work on Stage 2 is well underway. One side of the theatre suite has been sectioned off into a construction zone. This includes Theatres 1 and 2 which have been taken out of use. The theatre production plans developed to support this project have been put into place to ensure continuity of service. Use is being made of Crest’s fifth theatre which MidCentral has full access to, as well as new procedure rooms.

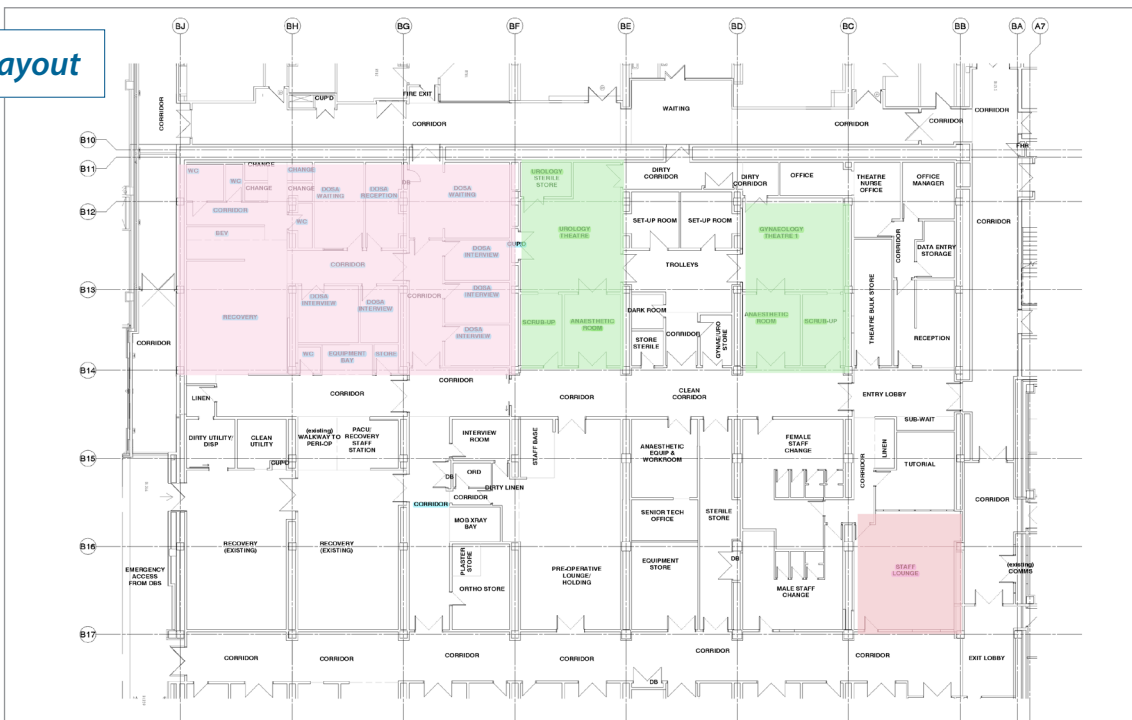
As can be seen from the sketches below, the old Day of Surgery Area (DOSA) is to be turned into three theatres, named Theatres 8, 9 and 1. Theatre 2 will remain as named. The Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory will be established within current Theatre 1, the “Cath Lab”.

As part of Stage 1, three procedure rooms were developed in the Gastroenterology suite. A fourth has been provided for within the Block B (main hospital building) Theatre Suite in the area previously used as a staff room. The shell of this procedure room has been created and it will be fitted out later in the programme.

New layout



Old layout



The demolition of the old DOSA area and old Theatre 1 was completed at the end of March. As well as taking out walls, pulling up flooring, removing the concrete ceilings, there is also work around the services, such as electrical cabling and switchboards, medical air and gases.

Framing for the new walls is going up and this work will continue over coming weeks.

Up on the roof top, 20 holes have been cut for the ducts associated with the new air handling system. This will control the flow of air in and out of each theatre and Cath Lab. The air requirements within theatres is that air changes occur 20 times per hour. The holes have been boxed up and covered with fire resistant material. Once the plant has been established they will be uncovered to enable the air handling system to be installed. The large tent, under which the work is being done, will be removed as commissioning of the air handling units progresses.



To find out more about this project, and the completion of Stage 1, go to our website www.projects.mdhb.health.nz or by scanning the QR code.



ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

Enabling works on site to establish our new Acute Mental Health Unit are coming to an end. The site has been stripped of the car parks and fences and compacted down. A new small car park has been established for renal patients including a new access driveway off Heretaunga Street.

The next stage is what is known as “inground and civil works”. This includes digging the trenches to take all storm water, sanitary/sewer, and clean (potable) water supply services. Work will commence on foundations, then prepare for the large concrete slab which will form the building base.

The building is being erected in three stages.

The project cost has increased since the original business case was completed three year’s ago. Some of these relate to design changes to include cultural elements and improved environmental sustainability and resilience. The overall footprint (size) of the building remains close to that originally proposed, but the improved elements, together with the extreme escalation of construction prices and associated supply chain costs in the NZ market in general and those experienced in Manawatū, have resulted in an overall project cost escalation. Changes in cost have not impacted the planned progression of the building which is scheduled for completion in mid 2025. Meantime, the final budget is being agreed and will be tightly managed.



Enabling works.





Enabling works.



New car park for renal patients, accessible from Heretaunga Street.

BEHIND THE SCENES

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS

Work continues to fit out Ward 26 with new air handling systems so it can be the hospital's second COVID-19 treatment ward (Ward 24). The work will be completed mid to late April.

When the hospital was built back in the early 1970s, windows provided the ventilation system. These do not provide the air control required to manage air-borne infections such as COVID-19.



Pipework for the new air handling system being installed in the ceiling.



Parts of the air handling system ready for installation.

The new system is similar in design to that put into Ward 24, utilising high airflows to reduce viral load in the ward, managed airflow system assures any air contaminated with airborne virus is contained and safely removed and discharged via HEPA filters.

The work also includes the upgrade of the medical vacuum and oxygen systems to provide a higher capacity and enhancements to improve performance of the existing negative pressure rooms. This is now provided to each bedside, whereas previously it was shared between some beds. The pipes delivering oxygen to the Ward were upgraded 12 months ago and will now be connected to the new Ward pipework system. They provide the ability to deliver high flow rates at each bed head.

The opportunity is also being taken to upgrade the Ward’s lighting while it is empty of patients, and fit out two rooms so they are capable of supporting dialysis patients who are in hospital for other medical conditions.



Medical vacuum and oxygen systems being installed at each bedside.

Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand

Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Taranaki
MidCentral

“Our Place” keeps you informed of the strategic projects, interim solutions and the supporting infrastructure work being progressed to ensure Palmerston North Regional Hospital is able to meet current and future demand.

Strategic

- Acute Services Block
- Reconfiguration of Clinical Services Block
- Mental Health Acute Facility
- Regional Cancer Facilities

Interim

- SPIRE Project (Surgical and Peri-operative Capacity)
- ED and Acute Assessment Capacity (ED, EDOA & MAPU)
- ICU and Acute Care Capacity

InfraStructure

- Electrical, heating, ventilation
- Three waters
- Medical gases
- Fire systems
- Thermal and emergency generation systems