



What you said

The NSW Government's \$780 million John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct will transform healthcare services for Newcastle, the greater Hunter region and northern NSW communities. Infrastructure will deliver enhanced and expanded facilities with a new seven-storey Acute Services Building providing additional capacity to the John Hunter and John Hunter Children's Hospitals.

The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct undertook a Social Impact Assessment as part of its State Significant Development Application. This assessment looked at the proposed project, its potential benefits and impacts, and how the community can participate and engage with the project.

Health Infrastructure engaged the Hunter Research Foundation Centre to undertake the Social Impact Assessment. The information gained from this work will help inform the Environmental Impact Statement and State Significant Development Application.

Survey responses

- The survey received over 1000 responses from staff and the community
- Over 50 per cent of respondents were residents of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie LGAs
- 50 per cent of respondents describes themselves as staff
- Over 70 per cent of respondents identified as female
- The age range of the respondents was from 18 to 65 years and over.

Methodology and scope

The Hunter Research Foundation Centre used a combination of desktop research, an online survey and interviews with selected survey respondents to gather staff and community views about the development.

The assessment mapped the impact of the development across five key indicators:

1. Natural
2. Financial
3. Human
4. Social
5. Manufactured.

Summary of findings

There is a high level of support and enthusiasm for the redevelopment and expansion of the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct.

Respondents reported the project will deliver significant benefits for local and regional communities through contemporary facilities, increased capacity, improved service, improved traffic flow, improved working conditions and employment opportunities.

The community is excited about modern health facilities and quality health services close to home. These benefits will help provide improved health outcomes for the community, now and into the future.

While support for the project is strongly positive, there are concerns about negative impacts during the construction phase. The project could potentially have a negative impact on staff and residents in terms of changes to traffic, parking, reduced biodiversity and noise.

The Social Impact Assessment found that no mitigation measures are required for the operational phase, however, some have been identified for the construction phase. The project team will review and consider these recommendations to reduce impacts as much as possible.

Managing construction work

The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct project team is committed to managing work on and around the Precinct to minimise impacts. This will be achieved through consistent stakeholder consultation and a focus on staff, the community and the environment.

The Environmental Impact Statement outlines a range of proposed measures to mitigate potential impacts during the construction phase. These include:

- Effectively plan work and site access to reduce impacts on traffic and parking
- Use on-site monitoring stations for noise and vibration levels
- Schedule respite periods during high level noise activities
- Turn off equipment and vehicles when not in use
- Monitor and manage access points
- Implement traffic control management and speed limit reductions when required
- Restrict heavy vehicle movements during peak hours
- Increase accessible greenspace within the design of Precinct
- Follow the NSW Community Consultative Committee guidelines for State Significant projects
- Be accessible and provide staff, precinct partners, neighbours and the community with clear, relevant and timely communication about works on and around the development site.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT | MAY 2021

The Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Impact Statement has detailed information about all the potential impacts during construction through to operation of the new health and research facility. Documents included the statement include:

- Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment
- Arboriculture and biodiversity assessment
- Architectural and landscape design
- Bushfire
- Civil design and structure
- Community engagement strategy
- Construction management plan
- Construction and operational waste management plan
- Contamination and potential hazards analysis
- Environmental wind assessment
- Geotechnical assessment
- Heritage assessment
- Impact on airspace
- Noise and vibration
- Policies and strategic context
- Social impacts
- Transport and accessibility.

More information

The Social Impact Assessment is included in the Environmental Impact Statement as part of the State Significant Development Application for the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct.

The State Significant Development Application will be available to view electronically on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment’s major projects website at: planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/40136

Request a presentation

The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct project team is committed to keeping you updated. We are keen to come and share project information with your school, community group or other organisation. Contact us on the details below to find out more.

Keep in touch

Community and stakeholder input are an essential part of planning the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct. We want to hear from you! Thank you in advance for your time and feedback which will help shape a facility that meets the demands of the Greater Newcastle, Hunter New England and northern NSW Regions.

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