

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

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Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Tower

State Significant Development Assessment Report (SSD-71941462)

April 2025





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Preface

This assessment report provides a record of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (the Department) assessment and evaluation of the State significant development (SSD) application for the Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Tower located at Gateshead, lodged by Ramsay Health Care Australia Pty Ltd. The report includes:

- an explanation of why the project is considered SSD and who the consent authority is
- an assessment of the project against government policy and statutory requirements, including mandatory considerations
- a demonstration of how matters raised by the community and other stakeholders have been considered
- an explanation of any changes made to the project during the assessment process
- an assessment of the likely environmental, social and economic impacts of the project
- an evaluation which weighs up the likely impacts and benefits of the project, having regard to the proposed mitigations, offsets, community views and expert advice; and provides a view on whether the impacts are on balance, acceptable
- an opinion on whether the project is approvable or not, along with the reasons, to assist the Independent Planning Commission in making an informed decision about whether development consent for the project can be granted and any conditions that should be imposed.

Executive Summary

This report details the Department's assessment of the State significant development application SSD-71941462 for the Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Tower.

This report will be provided to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for their consideration when deciding whether to grant consent to the SSD.

Project

Ramsay Health Care Australia Pty Ltd (the Applicant) proposes to construct and operate an expansion of the existing Lake Macquarie Private Hospital (LMPH). The hospital is located at 3 Sydney Street, 10 O'Brien Street, 2 and 4 Casey Street, as well as 36 and 38 Pacific Highway in the City of Lake Macquarie local government area (LGA).

The project has a capital investment value of \$48,121,860 and is expected to generate 80 full-time equivalent construction jobs and 26 operational jobs. If approved, construction of the project is expected to be completed by January 2027.

Strategic context

The Department considers the development is consistent with the aims of relevant strategies including NSW Premier's State Priorities, the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036, Transport for NSW's Future Transport Strategy 2056, Infrastructure NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042, Lake Macquarie Local Strategic Planning Statement, Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 and Government's response to the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry.

Statutory context

The project is classified as State significant development (SSD) under section 4.36 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) because it is for the purposes of a hospital and has a CIV greater than \$30 million pursuant to clause 14 of Schedule 1 of State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021.

The development application was made by an Applicant (and landowner) who has disclosed a reportable political donation under section 10.4 of the EP&A Act in connection with the development application. Consequently, the IPC is the consent authority for the project under section 2.7(1)(c) of the Planning Systems SEPP.

The application is permissible with consent.

Engagement

The Department exhibited the environmental impact statement (EIS) from 25 October until 21 November 2024. During the exhibition period, the Department received:

- a submission from an individual objecting to the project.
- a submission from Lake Macquarie City Council (Council) commenting on the project.
- advice from six government agencies/utility providers:
 - Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Group of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (BCS)
 - Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH)
 - Transport for NSW (TfNSW)
 - Hunter Water Corporation
 - Ausgrid
 - Subsidence Advisory NSW

Key concerns raised by Council and agencies related to vehicular access to the site, traffic movement and pedestrian safety, and the requirement for infrastructure upgrades.

The Applicant submitted a submissions report on 26 February 2025, to address concerns raised in submissions and agency advice.

Assessment

Traffic, parking and pedestrian safety

The Applicant's Traffic and Parking Assessment (TPA) shows the proposed development will have minimal impact on existing traffic flow. The TPA projects additional traffic during peak hours to be: 48 vehicles in and three out during the AM peak; and two vehicles in and 20 out during PM peak. The hospital is expected to generate 278 vehicle trips in the AM peak and 213 in the PM peak.

Surrounding intersections will continue to operate similarly to the 'without development' scenario, which the Department, Council and TfNSW has determined to be acceptable.

The Department has determined there to be minimal impact on traffic during construction, with construction traffic to be managed through appropriate conditions and a final Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

The proposal will provide for 16 additional parking spaces within the hospital campus. A total of 365 parking spaces will be provided within the overall campus upon completion of the development proposal, exceeding the Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan 2014 (LMDCP) requirements, with a surplus of 64 spaces. For construction workers, a shuttle service will be provided to the Willow Road carpark to address a 12-space shortfall, mitigating on-street parking concerns.

Existing pedestrian facilities will be maintained, with improvements proposed based on a Road Safety Audit (RSA), including safer crossings and better signage. The Department and TfNSW support the RSA findings, and a condition is recommending requiring the implementation of identified road safety measures.

Built form and urban design

The six-storey hospital tower has a maximum height of 18.6m, which is well below the Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP) 37m building height control. The development would be located approximately 23m from the nearest adjoining residential and commercial properties across Casey Street to the north and 75m to the nearest adjoining properties residential dwellings to the west. The Department considers the building separation between the development and the adjoining properties to be considerable and the built form and massing to be generally sympathetic to the surrounding site context.

The building façade features a blend of sustainable and low maintenance materials such as insulated glass, fibre cement cladding and metal cladding. The Department considers the facades to be generally consistent with the existing hospital materials and finishes whilst being of a contemporary design appropriate for a medical facility. On balance, the proposed materials, finishes and façade treatments are deemed acceptable.

The application proposes public domain upgrades, focusing on O'Brien and Casey Streets with upgrades to footpaths and the addition of seating areas and trees. Minor public domain works are also proposed along the Pacific Highway service road, comprising a footpath and landscaping.

Noise and vibration impacts

Construction is proposed to occur during standard hours (7am–6pm on weekdays; 8am–1pm on Saturdays). Construction noise is expected to exceed the noise management levels (NMLs) at nearby receivers, with some activities (demolition, excavation, and piling) potentially exceeding NMLs by up to 24dBA. Recommended measures include portable screens, equipment noise controls, and maximising the distance between noisy activities and sensitive receivers. A Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) has been recommended to mitigate acoustic impacts.

Vibration impacts are expected, particularly during demolition and construction, with recommended mitigation measures such as vibration surveying and the use of lower vibration equipment. These will be outlined in the CNVMP.

Key operational noise sources include loading docks, vehicle movements, oxygen truck deliveries, and mechanical plant operations. Noise levels from the development are expected to comply with acoustic requirements at all sensitive receivers. However, minor exceedances of the noise criteria may occur at certain locations, such as at the residential receiver R2 due to oxygen tank refilling (a brief event occurring every three to four weeks).

Noise impacts at a nearby school (S5) are predicted to be minimal and within acceptable limits, especially considering internal noise reductions from closed windows.

To minimise operational noise, the NVIA recommends measures including limitations on delivery and loading dock hours, carpark design improvements, and careful planning of mechanical plant locations. Post-occupation noise monitoring and verification will be required to ensure compliance with operational noise standards. The Department is satisfied with the proposed management strategies.

Conclusion

Overall, the Department's assessment concludes the project would:

- provide benefit for the community by delivering improved and expanded health facilities.
- be consistent with government strategy.
- provide economic benefits, generating approximately 80 full time equivalent construction jobs and 26 operational jobs through investment in health infrastructure.

As such, the Department considers the benefits outweigh the costs, the project is in the public interest, and is recommended for approval, subject to conditions.

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1 Introduction

1.1 The proposal

1. Ramsay Health Care Australia Pty Ltd (the Applicant) proposes to construct and operate an expansion of the existing Lake Macquarie Private Hospital (LMPH) campus, known as the Lake Macquarie Private Hospital Tower.
2. The project description provided in Part 3 of the environmental impact statement (EIS), and the mitigation measures provided in Appendix C of the Response to Submissions report (RtS), are the subject of this report and will form part of the development consent if the project is approved.
3. An overview of the proposed development as amended is provided in **Section 2**.

1.2 Project location

1.2.1 The Site

4. The site is located at 3 Sydney Street, 10 O'Brien Street, 2 and 4 Casey Street, and 36 and 38 Pacific Highway, Gateshead. It is legally described as Lot 90 DP 1233497, Lot 7 DP 24268, Lot 6 DP 24268, Lot 2 DP 1223084 and Lot 8 DP 24268 (see **Figures 1 and 2**). The current hospital functions are supported by the operation of the Hughes Street carpark shown in **Figure 1**.
5. The site is regular in shape and has a total area of approximately 14,041sqm. The site has four street frontages, with a frontage of approximately 94m along Sydney Street to the south, 152m along the Pacific Highway (service road) to the east, 87m along Casey Street to the north and 152m along O'Brien Street to the west.
6. The topography of the site is generally level, with the high point located at the north-western corner (approximate RL45 AHD) and the low point located to the south-western corner (approximate RL31 AHD), representing an average gradient of nine per cent to the south-western corner.



Figure 1 | The site and its immediate surrounds (source: Nearmap)

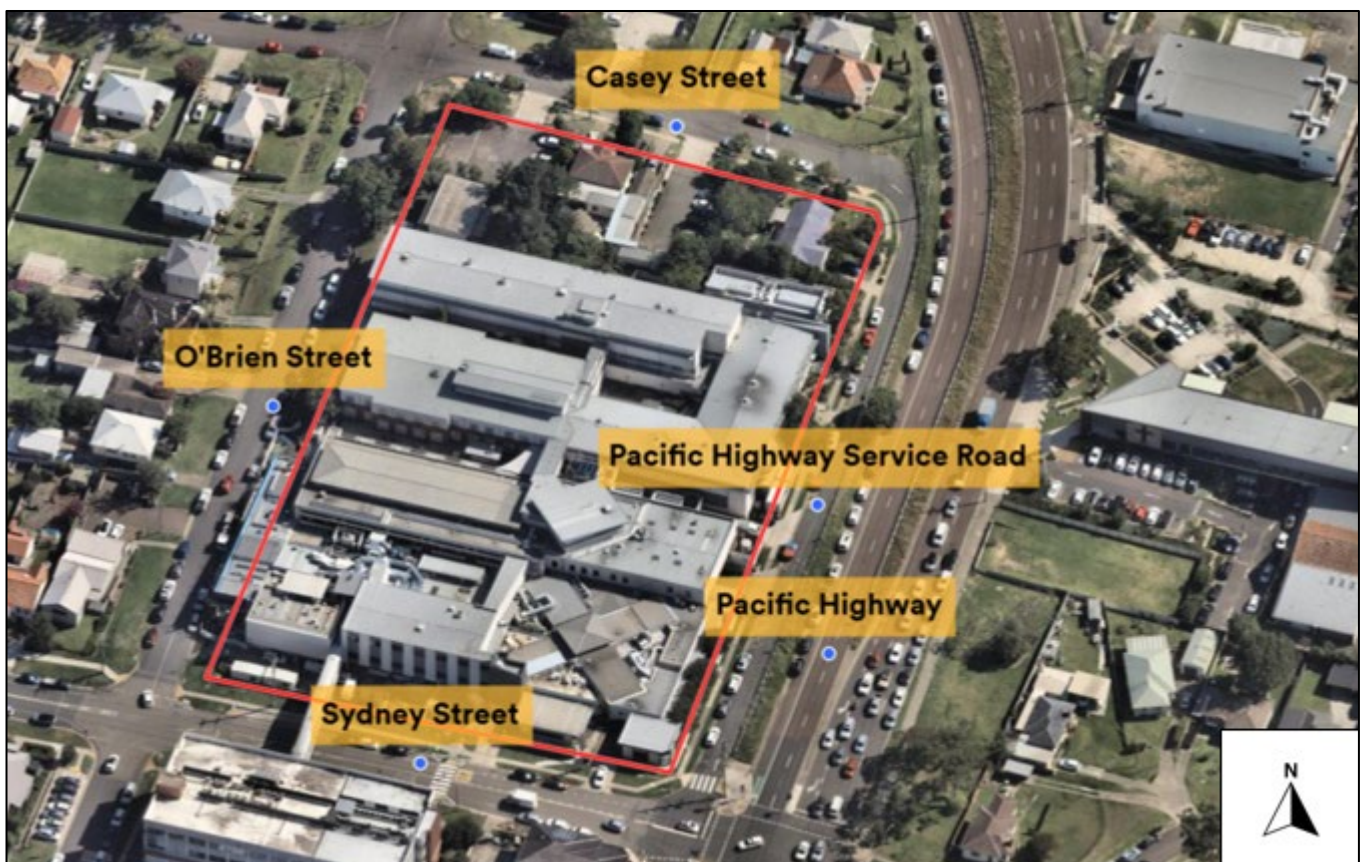


Figure 2 | Oblique aerial view of the site (source: Nearmap)

7. The site does not contain any local or state heritage listed items and is not located within a Heritage Conservation Area (HCA).
8. The site is not identified as being located on land that is bush fire prone.
9. The site and its surrounds are located outside the flooding extent during 1% AEP and Probable Maximum Flood events and therefore not identified as flood prone.
10. The site is within the Lake Macquarie Mine Subsidence District and is undermined by abandoned workings in the Victoria Tunnel seam.

1.2.2 Site improvements

11. The southern portion of the site (within Lot 90 DP 1233497 / 3 Sydney Street) contains the existing Lake Macquarie Private Hospital (LMPH) building. The existing LMPH is a two storey 187-bed acute medical and advanced surgical hospital, which is owned and operated by Ramsay Health Care. The existing hospital is linked by an overhead walkway to the Lake Macquarie Specialist Centre located across Sydney Street, providing on-site radiology and pathology services and specialist medical consulting suites. The existing hospital is also home to the Hunter Cancer Centre, providing medical oncology, radiation oncology, research, support services and education.
12. The Emergency Department is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
13. The northern portion of the site contains an arrangement of buildings and structures used for residential purposes and uses ancillary to the hospital, namely:
 - 4 Casey Street (Lot 6 DP 24268):
 - a single-storey weatherboard and tile building with a detached single garage. The building has historically been used as a residential dwelling but is now being used as office space for the hospital's building services team.
 - several site sheds are installed in the rear yard.
 - 2 Casey Street (Lot 7 DP 24268):
 - asphalt-sealed at-grade carpark with approximately eight parking spaces.
 - a fire service pump room building is located in the southern part of the lot.
 - 38 Pacific Highway (Lot 8 DP 24268):
 - currently developed with a one and two storey brick and tile building, with a single integrated / undercroft garage. The building has historically been used as a residential dwelling but is currently being used as office space and equipment storage.
 - 3 Sydney Street (part Lot 90 DP 1233497):
 - asphalt sealed at-grade carpark with garden beds around the perimeter areas.
 - 10 O'Brien Street (Lot 4 DP 24268):

- o a single storey weatherboard house with an attached undercroft garage. The house is currently used as a residential dwelling.

14. The immediate context and streetscape surrounding the site is shown in **Figures 3 to 6**.



Figure 3 | Sydney Street – southern boundary (source: Google Streetview)



Figure 4 | Pacific Highway Service Road – eastern boundary (source: Google Streetview)

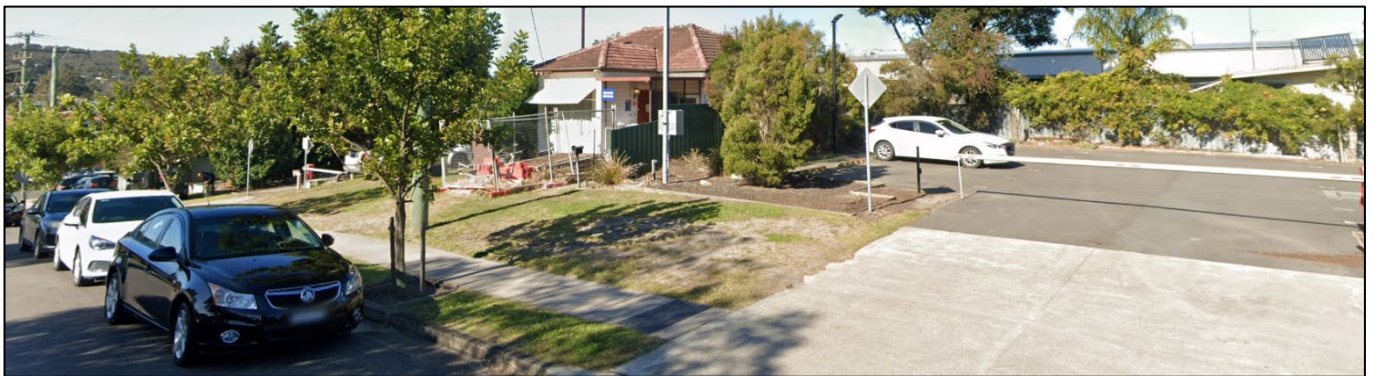


Figure 5 | Casey Street – northern boundary (source: Google Streetview)



Figure 6 | O'Brien Street – western boundary (source: Google Streetview)

1.2.5 Site and regional context

19. The site is located in Gateshead in the Lake Macquarie City local government area (LGA) and within the Central Coast and Hunter region of NSW, approximately 15km southwest of Newcastle Central Business District (CBD) (shown in **Figure 8**).

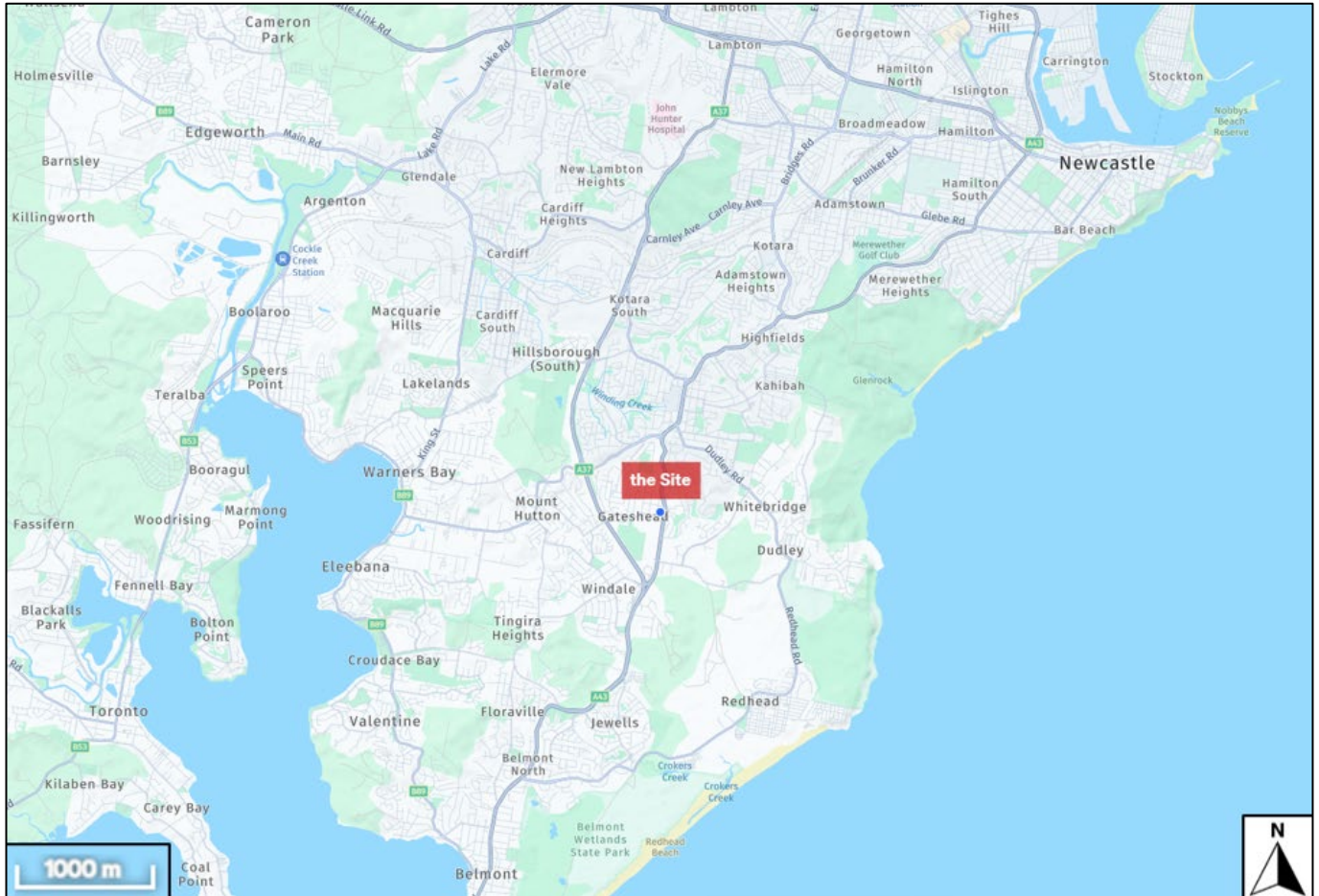


Figure 8 | Regional context (subject site located at blue dot) (source: Nearmap)

20. Surrounding development typologies and land uses in the immediate vicinity shown in **Figure 9** include:
- north: properties adjoining to the north of the site are zoned 'R2 Low Density Residential' under the Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP), predominantly comprising single storey dwelling houses and a medical land use at 8 O'Brien Street. Approximately 1.8km north of the site is the Charlestown Commercial Core.
 - east: to the east across the Pacific Highway is land zoned 'R2 Low Density Residential' and 'R3 Medium Density Residential' under the LMLEP. Development includes various low density residential typologies, St Mary's High School, St Pauls Primary School, Felton Street Community Preschool and Hope Unlimited Church Newcastle.
 - south: to the south of Sydney Street are neighbourhood shops zoned 'E1 Local Centre' under the LMLEP and land owned by the hospital, in the form of the Lake Macquarie Specialist Medical Centre. Further south is the Wiripaang Public School and the Hughes Street carpark that is currently under reconstruction (to provide parking for the LMPH).

- west: to the west of O'Brien Street is land zoned 'R3 Medium Density Residential' under the LMLEP and comprises a predominate composition of single storey dwellings houses. The Mount Hutton Commercial Core is located 1.5km to the south-west of the site.

21. **Figure 9** provides a spatial view of the site and its surrounding context.



Figure 9 | Local context (source: Nearmap)

1.2.6 Transport and accessibility

22. The existing road network serving the development site and its surrounds comprises:
- Pacific Highway: a State Road and arterial route which connects between Sydney and Newcastle.
 - Newcastle Inner City Bypass: a State Road and arterial route which links between Windale and Kotara.
 - Sydney Street, Willow Road and Tennent Road: a collector route connecting between the Pacific Highway and Warners Bay Road.
23. The site is surrounded by local roads in the form of O'Brien Street to the west, Casey Street to the north, Sydney Street to the south and the Pacific Highway service road to the east.
24. Public transport services for the LMPH are provided by Bus Route 14, providing frequent daily services along the Pacific Highway between Newcastle and Belmont, and Bus Route 41 which operates as a regular service along Oxford Street (and the Pacific Highway). There

is also an 'on-demand' daily bus service operated by Newcastle Transport provided for the Lake Macquarie area.

25. Existing pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of the site include:
- Sydney Street over-bridge connection to the Lake Macquarie Specialist Medical Centre to the south.
 - marked foot-crossing across Sydney Street.
 - footpaths along the Pacific Highway, Sydney Street and Casey Street.
 - traffic signal-controlled crossings at the Pacific Highway/Sydney Street intersection.
26. Provision for cyclists is provided with a shared path along the highway connecting to the Newcastle Cycle Network.

1.2.7 Contamination

27. Several contaminants have been identified on-site, including asbestos and heavy metals. **Section 6.5** of this report discusses remediation of the site.

1.3 Project background

28. The LMPH redevelopment has the potential to improve patient health and wellbeing through increased capacity in inpatient theatres, day theatres, inpatient beds, consulting suites and oncology chairs. Inpatient and day patient admissions are expected to grow to 30,970 and emergency department attendances are expected to grow to 19,245. In the absence of redevelopment at the LMPH, the Applicant has indicated that the projected activity would not be able to be met within the existing facility.
29. In particular, the Applicant advises the redevelopment would:
- support the growth and transformation of the healthcare sector.
 - generate employment during construction and once the development is operational.
 - improve access to jobs for residents of the immediate community and wider locality.
 - supplement, support and compliment the health precinct and its strategic intent.
 - demonstrate architectural excellence, through siting and design compatibility, with minimal visual impact.
 - provide suitable mitigation measures where required, to minimise any unforeseen impacts arising in the future.

1.4 Related applications

1.4.1 Planning Proposal

30. Planning Proposal PP-2021-6648 was finalised on 28 June 2023, to rezone the site from R3 Medium Density Residential to SP2 Infrastructure (Health Services Facility) and amend the Height of Buildings development standard in the LMLEP from 10m to 37m at the northern end of the site (shown in **Figures 10** and **11**). The Planning Proposal was done to facilitate a hospital building larger than that proposed on the subject site.

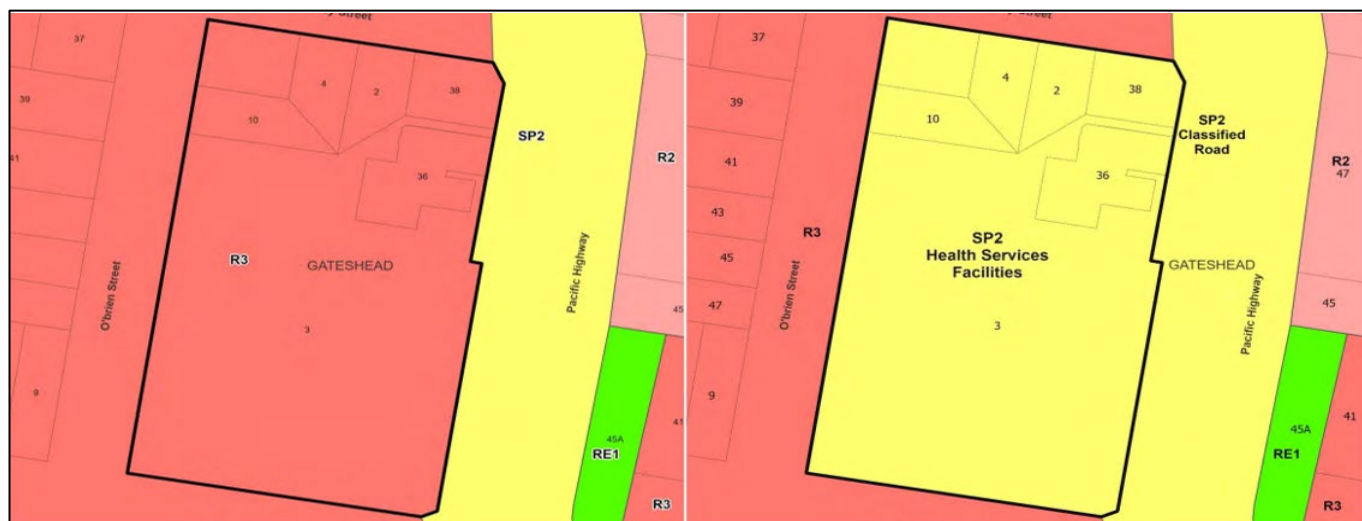


Figure 10 | Zoning Comparison – previous (left), amended (right) (source: NSW Planning Portal)



Figure 11 | Height of Buildings Map comparison – previous (left), amended (right) (source: Planning Portal)

31. Several locations for the hospital expansion and additional building height were investigated by the Applicant, including additional height across the entire site, or only the southern section or middle sections of the site. The option of developing the northern section of the site was chosen as the only viable option that would meet the projected health services demands without causing a critical disruption to the ongoing operation of the existing hospital.

1.4.2 State Significant Development Application (SSD-38025700)

32. Prior to the lodgement of the subject SSDA, the Applicant lodged State Significant Development Application SSD-38025700 for the expansion of the Lake Macquarie Private Hospital, comprising a nine-storey hospital building, including part-basement carpark (a more intense and larger development compared to the subject SSDA).
33. The Applicant initially sought to amend SSD-38025700 to stage that development to allow construction of a smaller portion of the expansion (Phase 1), generally aligning with the subject application, and construction of the remainder of the development as a subsequent stage (Phase 2) as demonstrated in **Figure 12**.
34. The Department did not agree to the amendment of SSD-38025700 as it considered that the amendment was seeking approval for two different development options over the same building footprint, rather than the staged delivery of the one project across the site.
35. Consequently, as an alternate means of staging the delivery of the full hospital expansion, the Applicant lodged a concurrent SSDA (SSD-71941462) on the site (subject application). A comparison of the full hospital expansion and the subject SSDA, proposing a smaller scale expansion of the hospital, is shown in **Figure 13**.

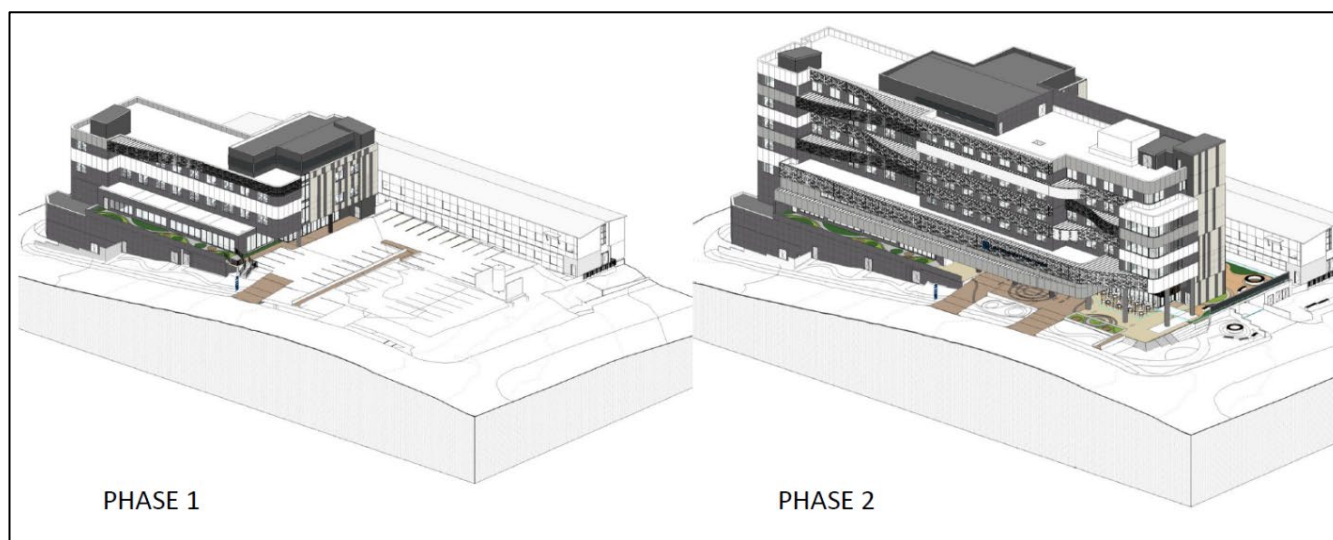


Figure 12 | Intended introduction of staging to SSD-38025700



Figure 13 | Smaller scale expansion SSDA (SSD-71941462) compared to the larger SSDA (SSD-38025700)

36. The Applicant has advised that, dependent on consent being granted for both applications, it is their intention to construct and occupy the smaller built form first, with the greater expansion potentially to be realised later (similar to staged development, albeit over two separate development applications)
37. Prior to commencement of construction of the broader works (SSD-38025700), the Applicant has outlined an intent to submit to the Department a section 4.55 modification application to modify the building design and layout under the concurrent SSDA (SSD-38025700), to provide for a building that would integrate with the built form already constructed under the subject smaller scale SSDA (SSD-71941462). The intent of this modification would be to remove any inconsistencies between the two SSDAs on the site, noting that the Applicant would need to demonstrate that the modified project is substantially the same as the original development, as approved.

2 Project

2.1 Project overview

38. Key aspects of the project are detailed in the Chapter 3 of the EIS and outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1 | Key aspects of the project

Aspect	Description
Project summary	Expansion of the Lake Macquarie Private Hospital (LMPH), comprising: demolition; earthworks; tree removal; and construction of a six-storey hospital tower with at-grade carpark and the provision of signage and landscaping.
Demolition	Demolition of three dwelling houses, two at-grade car parking areas and associated outbuildings to the north of the site.
Built form and design	<p>The scope of works can be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• earthworks involving cut and fill.• tree removal within the northern portion of the site.• augmentation of existing services and infrastructure such as water, power, and sewer.• construction of an at-grade carpark accessed from Casey Street.• construction of a six-storey hospital tower (including plant room), including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 40 additional inpatient beds.– three additional day surgery theatres.– ground floor Medical Imaging tenancy.– new hospital drop-off and pick-up on Casey Street.• construction of driveway on Pacific Highway Laneway for a loading dock.• landscaping.
Site area	14,041sqm.
Storeys	Six storeys.
Maximum height	18.6m.
Floor Space Ratio	1:1.19.
Gross Floor Area (GFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• existing GFA: 14,288sqm• additional proposed GFA: 2,429sqm• total GFA: 16,717sqm (across the entire hospital site).

Aspect	Description
Canopy cover and landscaping	194.1sqm (6.6%) canopy cover / 228.3sqm (7.8%) landscaping.
Tree removal	61 trees.
Earthworks	Excavation: 14,000 cubic metres of soil and/or rock would be excavated from the site. Fill: 800 cubic metres of clean coarse granular fill would be imported into the site.
Car spaces	16 additional spaces (total of 365 parking spaces across the campus, including in the Hughes Street hospital carpark).
Bicycle spaces	A total of four additional bicycle spaces within the Casey Street at-grade carpark.
Signage	Three building/business identification signs have been proposed, comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one painted entry identification wall sign to the north elevation. • one illuminated building identification sign to the east elevation. • one directional pylon sign adjacent to the driveway along Casey Street.
Operational hours	24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Construction hours	Monday to Friday 7am to 6pm; Saturday 8am to 1pm; and no work on Sundays or Public Holidays.
Capital Investment Value (CIV)	\$48,121,860.
Construction and operational jobs	80 full time equivalent construction jobs and 26 operational jobs.

2.2 Physical layout and design

39. The proposed six-storey hospital tower with associated at-grade carpark would be located to the northern end of the site.
40. The proposed tower is positioned to align with the layout of the existing building, allowing for the creation of a link that creates a sense of continuity through the whole hospital building.

41. The main entrance on Casey Street is recessed to accommodate the drop-off point, and to create a sense of arrival.
42. Facade articulation breaks up the horizontal scale of the building. The ward floor is recessed to create additional visual privacy for the surrounding residential. The building's façade is articulated with horizontal curved band that also acts as a sunshade device.
43. The façade is a composite of three main materials, namely insulated glass, fibre cement cladding and metal cladding.
44. **Figure 14** and **Figure 15** provide a visual representation of the proposed development, while **Figure 16** shows the location of the proposed works on the hospital site.



Figure 14 | Casey Street (left) and Pacific Highway (right) (source: Architectural Plans)



Figure 15 | Corner of O'Brien Street and Casey Road (source: Architectural Plans)

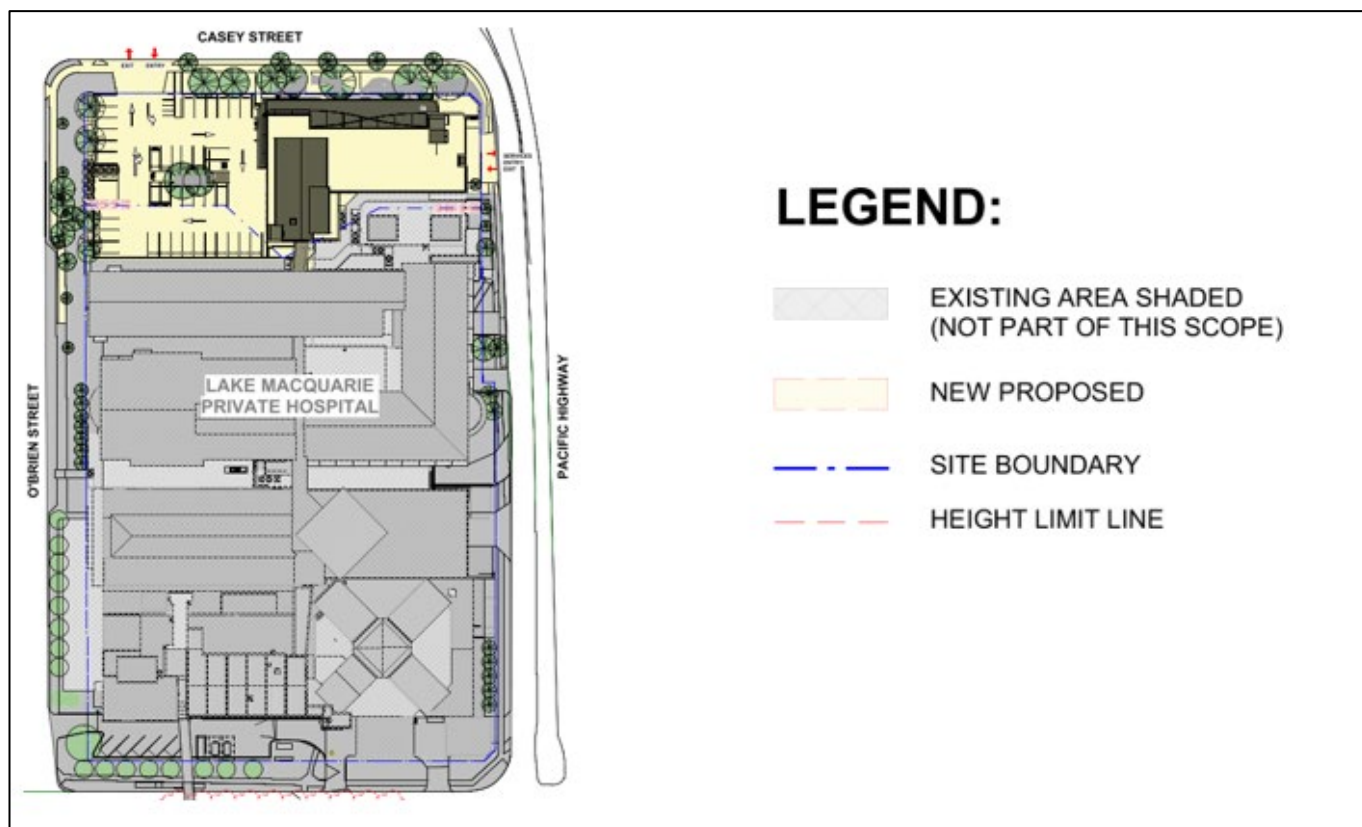


Figure 16 | Location of proposed works (source: Architectural Plans)

2.3 Uses and activities

45. The proposed development would be used for the purpose of a hospital and related ancillary activities, which would include the following activities throughout the life of the project (construction through to operation):
 - demolition of existing buildings and infrastructure.
 - removal of trees.
 - excavation and fill earthworks.
 - augmentation of servicing infrastructure.
 - construction works.
 - hospital operation and ancillary activities.
46. LMPH has a current workforce of 792 nursing, allied health, medical specialist and support staff. The proposed development is expected to provide 26 new operational staff roles.
47. The proposed hours of operation are 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

2.4 Timing and sequencing

48. The hospital's masterplan for the entire campus redevelopment details five stages, with Stages 1 and 2 being the approved 18 bed ward (DA/2320/2017), alterations and additions to the hospital including new operating theatres, patient recovery, day surgery and ancillary

facilities (DA/443/2018), and the expansion of the Hughes Street carpark (DA/523/2022). The development consents were issued by Lake Macquarie City Council.

49. The parking facilities provided under these consents is now operational.
50. Stage 3.1A of the campus masterplan is the subject of this SSDA. The subject works will be constructed over a single stage. Remaining stages of the masterplan will require separate future development consents.
51. Construction of Stage 3.1A anticipated to take up to 18 months.

3 Strategic context

3.1 Key strategic issues

52. The project is consistent with the strategies, plans and policies outlined in **Table 2**, and therefore the Department considers it appropriate for the site.

Table 2 | Summary of government strategies, plans and policies

Strategy, plan or policy	Consistency	Comments
NSW State and Premier's Priorities	Consistent	<p>The proposal would deliver on key state priorities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building infrastructure. • improving service levels in hospitals. • better access to community mental health services. • providing community health and public health services. • jobs closer to home. • improving outpatient and community care. <p>The proposal would deliver health infrastructure that will reduce waiting times by improving capacity, allowing for greater integration of services, and creating greater efficiencies by incorporating state of the art facilities and equipment. The proposal would create job opportunities in manufacturing, construction, and construction management during the project's construction phase of works, and job opportunities in health and administration at the project's completion.</p>
Hunter Regional Plan 2041	Consistent	<p>The proposal is consistent with the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 as it would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver health services in the right location to support the growth of the local communities and provide further employment. • accommodate typical urban development strategies and practices, manage risks of climate change and improve resilience to erosion, mine subsidence and land contamination. • enable the delivery of additional health facilities and emergency services to the region to support the growth and the community.
Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036	Consistent	<p>In accordance with the Plan's vision, the redevelopment of the LMPH would provide jobs and services close to established housing, thereby providing convenient connections, improving the general level of amenity offered in the area, and reducing the need to travel for health services.</p>

Strategy, plan or policy	Consistency	Comments
Transport for NSW's Future Transport Strategy 2056	Consistent	The development would provide expanded facilities in a highly accessible location and provide access to new employment opportunities close to public transport.
Infrastructure NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042	Consistent	The development would provide investment in health infrastructure and would enable more complex and higher volumes of services to be delivered.
Lake Macquarie Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)	Consistent	<p>The proposal is consistent with and supports the Lake Macquarie LSPS, its planning priorities and actions for the city. Specifically, the proposal supports the principles of the LSPS that aim to "respond to and encourage development of new education, health and innovation clusters especially Action 3.10 prepare a Gateshead Medical Precinct concept plan to facilitate the orderly development of this medical precinct including allied health and other supporting businesses."</p> <p>This proposal intends to increase the density of the LMPH encouraging more employment opportunities in the Gateshead Health Precinct. Therefore, it is considered that this proposal aligns with the broad directions of the Lake Macquarie LSPS.</p>
Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032	Consistent	The proposal is consistent with the vision for a diverse economy as well as lifestyle and wellbeing. The proposal would support a sustainable and diverse economy whilst providing the community with access to adaptable and inclusive community and health services.

4 Statutory context

4.1 Permissibility and assessment pathway

53. Details of the legal pathway under which consent is sought and the permissibility of the project are provided in **Table 3**.

Table 3 | Permissibility and assessment pathway

Consideration	Description
Assessment pathway	<p>State significant development</p> <p>The project is declared SSD under section 4.36 of the EP&A Act as it satisfies the criteria under section 2.6(1) of the Planning Systems SEPP, pursuant to clause 14 of Schedule 1 as the development is for the purposes of a hospital with a CIV greater than \$30 million. The proposed development on the land concerned is, by the operation of an environmental planning instrument, not permissible without development consent under Part 4 of the EP&A Act, and the proposed development is specified in section clause 14 of Schedule 1 of the Planning Systems SEPP.</p>
Consent authority	<p>Independent Planning Commission (IPC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The development application was made by an Applicant (and landowner) who have disclosed a reportable political donation under section 10.4 of the EP&A Act in connection with the development application.• Accordingly, the IPC is the declared consent authority under section 4.5(a) of the EP&A Act and section 2.7(1)(c) of the Planning Systems SEPP.
Permissibility	<p>Permissible with consent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP) identifies the site as being located within the SP2 Infrastructure (Health Services Facility) zone. Development for the purpose shown on the SP2 Infrastructure Land Zoning Map (such as a health services facility – which includes hospitals) is permitted with consent under the LMLEP.• The proposed development is therefore permissible with consent under the LMLEP.

Consideration	Description
Multiple Development Applications	<p>The applicant has lodged two SSD applications over the same site, SSD-38025700 lodged on 6 November 2023 and SSD-71941462 (subject of this assessment) lodged on 21 October 2024. The Applicant seeks approval of both SSD applications as it would allow it to decide in the future which development consent to act upon.</p> <p>There is no statutory or other legal constraint upon the number of development applications that a person can make in respect of the same land.</p> <p>The Department has had regard to having two SSDAs on the same site. The two developments are over the same footprint. If the Applicant acted upon any one consent, it would not be able to act upon the other consent as there is no longer a practical possibility due to development already having been commenced and undertaken pursuant to the first consent, unless the other consent was subsequently modified to remove any inconsistency.</p>

4.2 Other approvals and authorisations

54. The project will not require an environment protection licence issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority under section 42 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.
55. Under section 4.41 of the EP&A Act, a number of other authorisations required under other Acts are not required for SSD. This is because all relevant issues are considered during the assessment of the SSD application.
56. Under section 4.42 of the EP&A Act, certain approvals cannot be refused if they are necessary to carry out the SSD (e.g. approvals for any road works under the *Roads Act 1993*). These authorisations must be substantially consistent with any SSD development consent for the project.
57. The Department has consulted with and considered the advice of the relevant government agencies responsible for these other authorisations in its assessment of the project (see **Section 5** and **Section 6**). Suitable conditions have been included in the recommended conditions of consent (see **Appendix C**).

4.3 Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements

58. The Department's review determined that the EIS addresses each matter set out in the Planning Secretary's environmental assessment requirements (SEARs) issued on 4 March 2022 and is sufficient to enable an adequate consideration and assessment of the project for determination purposes.

4.4 Mandatory matters for consideration

4.4.1 Matters of consideration required by the EP&A Act

59. Section 4.15 of the EP&A Act sets out matters to be considered by a consent authority when determining a development application. The Department's consideration of these matters is shown in **Table 4**.

Table 4 | Matters for consideration

Matter for consideration	Department's assessment
Environmental planning instruments, proposed instruments, development control plans and planning agreements	Appendix C and Appendix D
EP&A Regulation	Appendix C
Likely impacts	Section 6 - Assessment
Suitability of the site	Section 1.3 - Project background, Section 3 - Strategic Context and Section 6 - Assessment
Public submissions	Section 5 - Engagement and Section 6 - Assessment
Public interest	Section 5 - Engagement, Section 6 - Assessment and Section 7 - Evaluation

4.4.2 Objects of the EP&A Act

60. In determining the application, the consent authority should consider whether the project is consistent with the relevant objects of the EP&A Act (s 1.3) including the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Consideration of those factors is described in **Appendix B**.
61. As a result of the analyses in **Appendix B**, the Department is satisfied that the development is consistent with the objectives of the EP&A Act and the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

4.4.3 Biodiversity development assessment report

62. Section 7.9(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) requires all SSD applications to be accompanied by a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) unless the Planning Agency Head and the Environment Agency Head determine that the project is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values (as identified in the BC Act and in the Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017).

63. A BDAR waiver request was submitted to the Department on 27 August 2024. The Environment Agency Head and the Director Social and Infrastructure Assessments as delegate of the Planning Secretary, determined that the development is not likely to have any significant impact on biodiversity values. A BDAR waiver was granted on 23 September 2024.

5 Engagement

5.1 Exhibition of the EIS

5.1.1 Public exhibition of the EIS

64. After accepting the EIS, the Department:
- publicly exhibited the project from 25 October until 21 November 2024 on the NSW Planning Portal.
 - notified occupiers and landowners in the vicinity of the site about the public exhibition.
 - notified and invited comment from relevant government agencies and Lake Macquarie City Council (Council).
65. During the public exhibition period, the Department undertook a site visit.

5.1.2 Summary of advice received from government agencies

66. The Department received advice from six government agencies on the EIS.
67. A summary of the agency advice is provided in **Table 5**. A link to the full copy of the advice is provided in **Appendix A**.

Table 5 | Summary of agency advice

Agency	Advice summary
Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	<p><u>Road safety risks</u></p> <p>TfNSW identified road safety concerns related to the development on Sydney Street, including vehicle turning conflicts, pedestrian safety, and potential queuing onto the Pacific Highway. TfNSW recommended that an independent Road Safety Audit (RSA) be undertaken to assess the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ambulance circulation and access.service vehicle circulation, including restrictions on right turns.pedestrian facilities and safety, especially for hospital access from on-street parking.conflict points, including illegal right turns from Sydney Street.sight lines for entry/exit driveways. <p><u>Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA)/SIDRA modelling</u></p> <p>The following deficiencies with the TIA should be rectified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">future scenarios: the current modelling does not include a ten-year design horizon, as required.

Agency	Advice summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • background growth: justification for the applied growth rate in the TIA is needed. • signal timing: the SIDRA model lacks signal coordination between intersections. • pedestrian counts: counts at the Sydney Street/Pacific Highway intersection are needed to assess safety, especially for vulnerable road users. • design vehicle clarification: Swept paths need to show the largest vehicle turning from Sydney Street into the laneway.
Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Group of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (BCS)	BCS raised no concerns with the proposed development.
Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH)	<p>Heritage NSW ACH raised no concerns to the proposed development and concurred with the proposed mitigation measures and recommendations under Section 6 of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR).</p> <p>Heritage NSW has recommended conditions of consent requiring the avoidance of harm to Aboriginal objects and that Aboriginal heritage management procedures are included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p>
Hunter Water Corporation	Hunter Water Corporation raised no concerns regarding the proposal, subject to conditions requiring the issuing of a Compliance Certificate under Section 50 of the <i>Hunter Water Act 1991</i> .
Subsidence Advisory NSW	Subsidence Advisory NSW raises no concerns with the proposal, subject to the implementation of the requirements of the conditional approvals previously provided to the Applicant being adhered to.
Ausgrid	Ausgrid raised no concerns regarding the proposal, subject to the imposition of recommended conditions relating to supply of electricity, proximity to existing network assets, safety and landscaping.

5.1.3 Summary of Council submission

68. Council provided comments on the project.

69. A summary of the comments provided by Council is provided in **Table 6** below and a link to its submission in full is provided in **Appendix A**.

Table 6 | Summary of issues raised by Council

Issues	Submission summary
DCP controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan 2014 (LMDCP) review table is based on the wrong zoning (Part 3 Development in Residential Zones instead of Part 5 Development in Productivity Support, Industrial and Infrastructure Zones).
Cut and fill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a 2.6m high retaining wall is proposed to facilitate the service driveway to access substations on Casey Street. The wall appears to extend above ground level in 3D perspectives, but the civil plans show a handrail on top.
Visual impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed façade facing the Pacific Highway and the roller door for the loading dock increases visual impact. opportunities exist to articulate the ground-level wall using variations in materials, patterning reflecting landscape treatments, hospital branding colours, local indigenous artist murals, or greening with vines/green walls.
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a parking management plan is required to ensure efficient use of hospital parking for visitors and staff, addressing issues like spillover on-street parking and all-day parking. an assessment of existing and necessary parking restrictions within 250m of the development should be provided. driveway long sections of the proposed driveway should be provided. two parking spaces do not comply with Australian Standard AS2890.1
Servicing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> swept paths and grades for the service vehicle in the carpark are not shown or assessed. swept paths on the Pacific Highway service road are tight, requiring kerb mounting and removal of on-street parking used by staff. insufficient space exists in the service lane for the loading dock without widening, resulting in potential conflict between service vehicles and ambulances. swept paths for the service vehicle to access the substations and the largest vehicle turning from Sydney Street are required.
Stormwater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the stormwater strategy needs analysis for additional flows into the existing line on the Pacific Highway. the direct outlet from the detention tank to O'Brien Street's kerb exceeds velocity limits and is not supported.
Landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EIS mentions that the façade treatment and planting

Issues	Submission summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will improve visual amenity, but this is not reflected in the drawings. • Casey Street trees (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>) are too small - taller trees should be used for better screening. • O'Brien Street and carpark trees (<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>) are good for shade, but more variety and larger trees would improve diversity and screening.
Traffic and pedestrian safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plans for Sydney Street access are inconsistent - more information is needed on entry/exit, pick-up/drop-off management, and ambulance routes. • the Sydney Street pedestrian refuge should be removed, and fencing installed to direct pedestrians to crossings; pedestrian crossing upgrades are needed. • using the existing ramp for disabled parking on Sydney Street should be investigated. • Pacific Highway service road turning paths show only 300mm clearance for heavy vehicles, raising safety concerns. • turning paths for all heavy vehicles should be provided to ensure trucks fully regress into the loading dock to avoid traffic issues. • the ambulance drop-off should be reviewed to accommodate three ambulances at once. • TfNSW notes that Council supports creating a high pedestrian activity area around Hughes, O'Brien, Casey, and Sydney Streets, with improved footpath connections. • upgrade width of footpath on Hughes Street to 2.5m for safe pedestrian access. • a road safety audit is required as requested by TfNSW.

5.1.4 Summary of public submissions

70. The Department received one submission¹ during the public exhibition period of the EIS from an individual objecting to the project. Further detail is provided in **Table 7** and a link to all submissions in full is provided in **Appendix A**.
71. The key issues raised by the public relate to traffic, safety, parking, bulk and scale and community engagement.

¹ Each petition or submission that contains the same or substantially the same text is counted as one submission in accordance with section 2.7(6) of the Planning System SEPP.

Table 7 | Key issues raised in public submission on the EIS

Issue

Traffic issues

- peak traffic times (2:30-3:30pm) are chaotic due to school and LMPH traffic, creating safety concerns.
- the Sydney Street crossing is often obscured by parked cars and traffic; an additional pedestrian crossing is needed.
- traffic congestion at Hughes and O'Brien Streets could be alleviated by signage and possibly a roundabout.
- no consideration of Gateshead residents' parking; timed parking and parking vouchers for residents are recommended.
- the proposed Casey Street entrance to LMPH will increase pedestrian traffic, and accessibility improvements (footpath, steps, handrail) are needed.
- Casey Street needs resurfacing due to potholes, and road widening may be necessary for safer traffic flow.

Safety concerns

- painted yellow lines near driveways and corners, speed limits, and improved pedestrian management could enhance safety.
- the shared pathway for cyclists is unsafe, and Oakdale Road lacks lighting and proper cycle paths. The Fernleigh Track is dangerous, particularly at night.

Community engagement

- LMPH has not adequately engaged with local residents in consultations; more comprehensive outreach is needed.
- a Community Consultative Committee should include Gateshead residents, and meeting details should be shared widely.

Bulk and scale

- The new hospital tower will dominate the neighbourhood.

General

- LMPH should do more to directly support Gateshead residents, including sponsoring local programs, scholarships, and sports clubs.
- the EIS fails to address the social and economic needs of Gateshead residents, particularly in healthcare access, education, and lifestyle support.

5.2 Response to submissions

72. Following the public exhibition period, the Department asked the Applicant to respond to the issues raised in submissions and advice received from government agencies, particularly the issues raised in advice from TfNSW regarding road safety risks, SIDRA modelling and insufficient information within the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA).
73. The Applicant provided a response to submissions (RtS) report to the Department on 26 February 2025 (see **Appendix A**). The Department published the RtS on the NSW planning portal and forwarded the RtS to TfNSW and Council for comment on 27 February 2025.
74. The RtS included:
- amended architectural plans, detailing façade changes to the loading dock façade, the provision of bike parking at the lower ground entry and the provision of driveway long sections.
 - amended landscape plans, detailing additional planting including taller tree planting and some turfed areas being converted to mass planting.
 - amended stormwater management plans addressing Council’s concerns.
 - a revised SIDRA analysis in response to TfNSW’s comments.
 - an amended Traffic and Parking Assessment, including a Road Safety Audit, a Parking Management Plan (PMP) and additional swept path diagrams. The PMP has outlined that:
 - the Casey Street carpark will have boom gate controls and will be available for visitors only. There will be a specified maximum of ‘free time’ parking.
 - boom gates will be installed to the existing Hughes Street carpark with intercom communication, ticket issuing and swipe card/key access provisions. All staff, doctors, VMO’s will have free parking with swipe card or keypad access. All visitors will be issued with a ticket on entry and will need to have it validated at the Hospital reception in order to exit free. Any other users of the carpark will be issued with a ticket on entry and will need to pay a fee.

5.2.1 Council and agency advice on RtS

75. Council and TfNSW commented on the RtS, and a summary of their advice is provided in **Table 8**.

Table 8 | Summary of Council and TfNSW advice on the RtS

Council	Summary of advice
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• support making the pedestrian crossing on the northbound slip lane signalised with amber/red operation to improve pedestrian safety.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support upgrading the existing median in Sydney Street to meet current Australian Standards and extending it for safety and sight distance concerns. • does not support the TfNSW recommendation for extending the 'No Stopping' zone on the southern side of Sydney Street due to its importance for local business parking and concerns over increased vehicle speeds. • support installing 'No Entry/Entry' signs with associated pavement arrows, provided the arrows are within the site. • a pedestrian survey is required, including a count of pedestrians on Sydney Street and details about crossing behaviours and destinations.
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant should provide three 15-minute parking spaces each for the carparks accessed via Sydney Street and Casey Street. • the width of the driveway to the carpark off Casey Street is considered excessive and should be reduced to meet Australian Standard AS2890.1. • two parking spaces do not comply with Australian Standard AS2890.1.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a condition should be added to ensure the Applicant submits a Temporary Traffic Management (TTM) application before work begins. • recommend further engagement with TfNSW and bus operators in the future regarding additional bus stop locations and connecting footpaths. • the turning movements out of the loading dock onto the Pacific Highway service road are limited due to space and the guardrail.
Stormwater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stormwater runoff from the carpark is now proposed to connect to the OSD system on the Pacific Highway side.
TfNSW	Summary of advice
Works on Pacific Highway / Sydney Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommend signalling the pedestrian crossing on the northbound Pacific Highway slip lane to improve safety, particularly for pedestrians, due to blocked sightlines caused by cars parking alongside the left turn lane.
Works on Sydney Street (Local Road)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommend upgrading the existing median in Sydney Street to meet Australian Standards and extend it beyond the hospital drop-off area to address safety concerns. • recommend installing 'No Stopping' zones between entry and exit driveways on Sydney Street to improve exit sight distance. • recommend extending the 'No Stopping' zone on the southern side of Sydney Street to allow traffic to pass vehicles waiting to enter the drop-off area, preventing queuing at the signalised intersection. • recommend installing 'No Entry/Entry' signs with associated pavement arrows to guide traffic correctly into and out of the drop-off area.

6 Assessment

76. The Department has considered the Applicant's EIS, issues raised in submissions, agency advice, Council advice, the RtS and supplementary information in its assessment of the proposal. The Department considers the key issues associated with the proposal are:
- traffic, parking, access and pedestrian safety.
 - noise and vibration.
 - built form and urban design.

6.1 Traffic, parking, access and pedestrian safety

77. The application was accompanied by a Traffic and Parking Assessment (TPA), a Preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan (PCTMP) and a Green Travel Plan (GTP), which considers potential traffic, transport and accessibility impacts throughout construction and operation phases of the development.

6.1.1 Operational traffic

Traffic generation rates

78. The submitted TPA has calculated traffic generation rates for the proposed development.
79. The projected additional traffic movements resulting from the development would be:
- 48 additional vehicles in and three additional vehicles out during the AM peak.
 - two additional vehicles in and 20 additional vehicles out during the PM peak.
80. The TPA estimates that the total staff and visitor vehicle movements to and from the hospital would be:
- 278 vehicle trips in the AM peak period.
 - 213 vehicle trips in the PM peak period.

Traffic impacts

81. Based on the predicted traffic generation, the TPA includes a SIDRA analysis of key intersections comparing 'with' and 'without' development scenarios, along with a 10 year projection scenario to 2034. The intersections are shown in **Figure 17**, and SIDRA modelling results in **Table 9**.

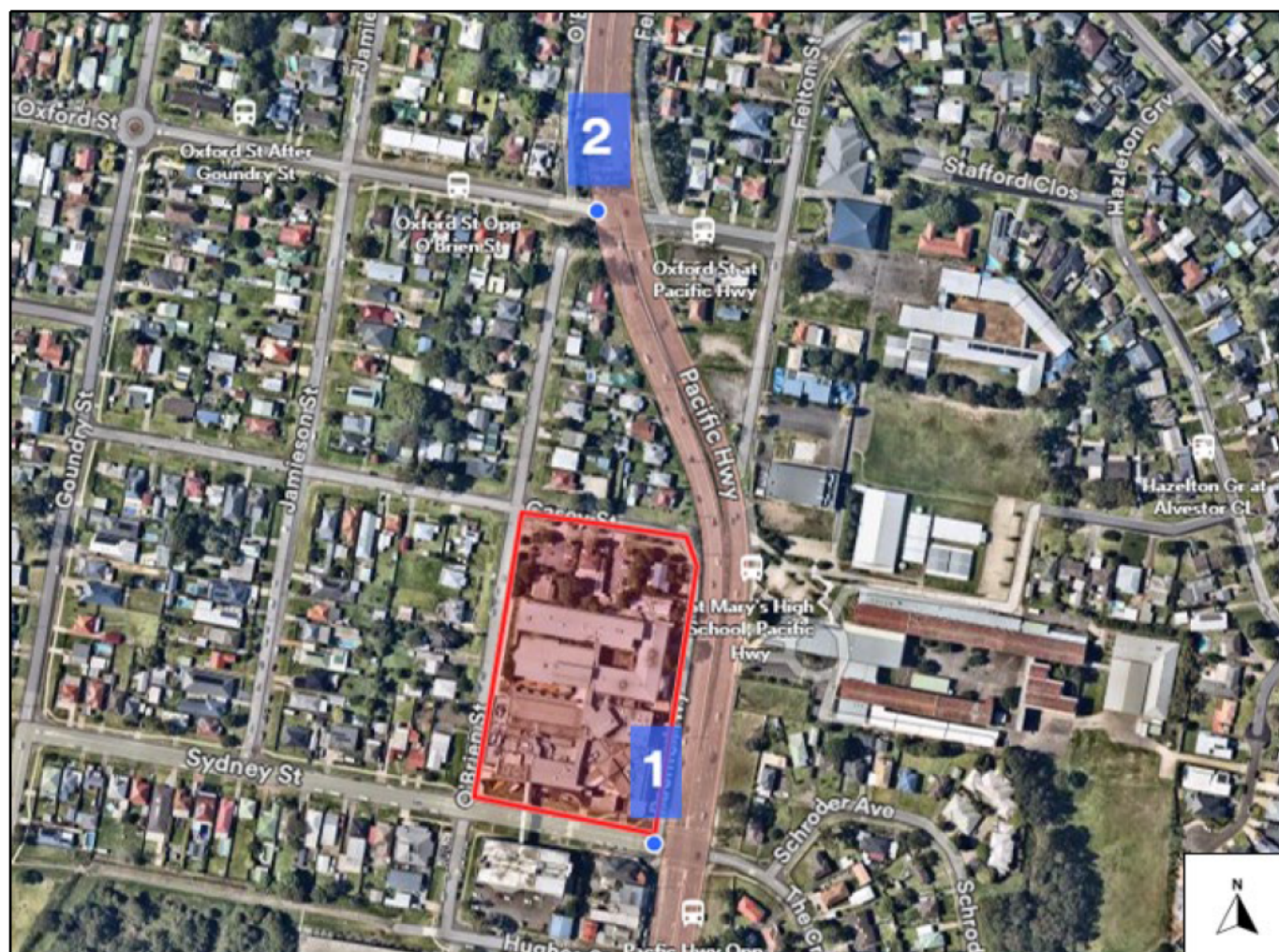


Figure 17 | Intersections assessed in the SIDRA analysis (source: Nearmap)

Table 9 | Intersection performance, Level of Service (LoS) (source: TPA)

Intersection No.	Intersection	Without development			With development		10 year projection (2034)	
		Peak	Average delay (sec)	Level of service (LoS)	Average delay (sec)	Level of service (LoS)	Average delay (sec)	Level of service (LoS)
1	Pacific Highway & Sydney Street	AM	15.3	B	17.8	B	17.8	B
		PM	13.1	A	15.6	B	15.8	B
2	Pacific Highway & Oxford Street	AM	43.7	D	40.4	C	46.0	D
		PM	33.1	C	31.4	C	32.1	C

82. **Table 9** indicates that following development of the hospital, the surrounding intersections are expected to continue operating with a similar level of service to that expected under the without development scenario.

83. Further, between the 'with development' scenario and the '10 year projection' scenario, an average delay of 5.6 seconds would occur in the AM peak period and a one second delay in the PM peak period.
84. The submitted TPA forecast that the development is expected to have a minor impact to intersection performance in the surrounding road network and has not recommended any intersection traffic improvements or other traffic mitigation measures. Council and TfNSW did not raise concerns with the traffic generated by the proposed development and impacts to intersection performance in the vicinity of the subject site.
85. The Department notes the findings of the TPA and considers the proposed development would not result in unacceptable traffic impacts on the local road network.

6.1.2 Construction traffic

86. The preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) indicates that traffic generated by the proposed development would comprise light vehicles (e.g. vans, utility vehicles etc.) associated with construction workers and smaller deliveries, together with heavy vehicles for the delivery and removal of materials, including plant and equipment (up to 12.5m Heavy Rigid Vehicles).
87. Throughout construction an average of six trucks per day is expected, with a maximum of five trucks per day during excavation (10 movements per day). The heavy vehicle movements are likely to be spread throughout the day. The CTMP notes that in the worst-case scenario, 12 two-way vehicle movements would occur during the peak hour.
88. Based on the above information, the Department is satisfied that the construction traffic expected from the proposal poses minimal impacts and will be managed through recommended conditions, requiring appropriate construction worker modes of transport and the implementation of a final CTMP.

6.1.3 Parking

On-site parking

89. Existing car parking facilities are provided across the hospital campus for staff, visitors and patients, as shown in **Figure 7**, with the total number of available spaces amounting to 353.
90. The car parking rates of the Lake Macquarie City Development Control Plan 2014 (LMDCP) have been applied to the proposed development, summarised below in **Table 10**

Table 10 | DCP parking rates (source: LMDCP)

Hospital	Day Surgery	Health Consulting Rooms
1 space per 2 beds	1 space per practitioner	1 space per on-duty practitioner
+ 1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 2 staff	1 space per 2 full-time staff

Hospital	Day Surgery	Health Consulting Rooms
+ ambulance spaces	1 space per 2 operating theatres	2 spaces per consulting room

91. In accordance with these parking rates, the existing hospital has a parking requirement as set out on **Table 11**.

Table 11 | Proposed hospital parking requirements (source: TPA)

Existing + proposed parking component	Parking required
223 beds	112 spaces
306 staff	153 spaces
18 doctors	18 spaces
36 VMO's	18 spaces
Total	301 spaces

92. The proposed provision of parking is as set out on **Table 12**.

Table 12 | Car parking provision (source: TPA)

Required parking (LMDCP)	Total parking provided
301 spaces	365 spaces (surplus 64 spaces)

93. Two at-grade car parking areas comprising 26 spaces would be demolished on the northern portion of the existing hospital site (off Casey Street), however, 42 spaces will be delivered within the proposed at-grade Casey Street carpark. This equates to a net gain of 16 parking spaces under this SSDA.
94. The car parking proposed would exceed the car parking requirements of the LMDCP and the hospital is expected to operate with a surplus of 64 parking spaces upon completion of the subject works, noting that further vertical expansion of the hospital is planned in the future.
95. Given the above, the Department is satisfied that adequate parking would be available to accommodate the proposed fully developed campus, and the subject proposal would not have a detrimental impact on the locality in terms of any additional demand for on-street car parking spaces.
96. While a surplus of parking spaces is proposed at this stage, further expansion of the hospital is planned for the future, which will generate a further demand for on-site parking, thereby reducing the surplus number of spaces.

Parking for construction workers

97. The TPA states that a maximum of 50 construction workers are anticipated on the site at any one time and would be encouraged to use the Hughes Street carpark where spaces are available. While the recently constructed Hughes Street carpark will have capacity of 291 spaces, the existing 26-space Casey Street carpark will be demolished as part of the new work and new at-grade parking will not be available for hospital users until completion of the works. This effectively means that the surplus in parking spaces for the hospital during construction drops from 64 to 38 spaces, resulting in a 12-space shortfall in off-street parking that would need to be provided elsewhere for construction workers.
98. The Applicant has identified that a Council owned off-street public carpark in Willow Road will be made available for construction workers to accommodate the anticipated shortfall in the Hughes Street carpark during construction (see **Figure 18**).

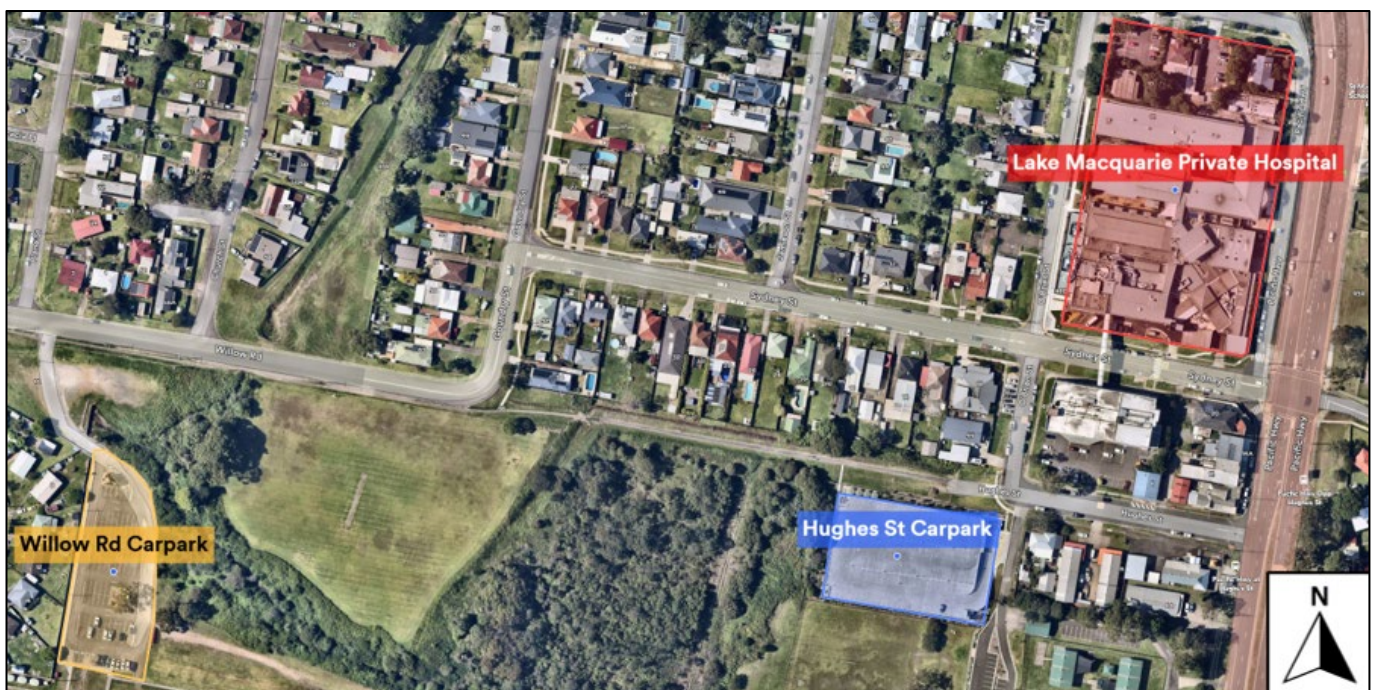


Figure 18 | Willow Road carpark (source: Nearmap)

99. Council has raised no concerns to the use of the Willow Road public carpark for construction vehicle parking, subject to the arrangement not impacting upon the availability of parking during sporting events at the adjoining sports fields (primarily on weekends). A condition has been recommended in this regard.
100. Notwithstanding, the Willow Road carpark is located approximately 12 minutes and a 900m walk from the hospital site, which may discourage its use.
101. The Department raised concerns with the Applicant that the Willow Road carpark cannot be reasonably relied upon for construction worker parking, and that construction workers unable to park in the Hughes Street carpark would instead seek to locate the closest on-street parking spaces to the development site, impacting upon the availability of street parking for nearby residents, hospital visitors and businesses.

102. As part of the RtS, the amended TPA has proposed the provision of a free shuttle service for construction workers seeking to travel between the main hospital buildings and the Willow Road carpark. The Department notes that the construction worker shuttle service has also been recommended in the provided Social Impact Assessment report.
103. The Department agrees that the shuttle service would be effective in relieving on-street parking pressure during construction. Appropriate conditions of consent have been recommended requiring the establishment of the shuttle service between 6am and 4pm Monday to Friday, noting that the shuttle service will not run on the weekend, so as to not interfere with Willow Road carpark users during weekend sports events.

Parking design and layout

104. The TPA has undertaken an assessment of the design of the proposed car parking areas. The assessment has considered ramps, grades, bays, aisle widths, turning/manoeuvring and head room. The TPA identifies that the design of the abovementioned elements is expected to operate satisfactorily and is generally in accordance with the relevant standards and guidelines, namely the Australian Standard AS2890.1:2004 for Off Street Car Parking.
105. The Department has recommended appropriate conditions requiring the design of the proposed carpark, loading dock, access and pick-up / drop-off bays are in keeping with the above Australian Standard.

6.1.4 Access and servicing

Vehicle access

106. Existing vehicle access to the site is provided via Sydney Street to the south (drop-off and emergency vehicle access), the Pacific Highway service road to the east (loading dock and carpark access) and Casey Street to the north (carpark access).
107. The application proposes to alter the existing vehicle access arrangements as follows:
- the construction of an ingress / egress driveway on Casey Street.
 - the construction of a combined ingress / egress driveway on the Service Road to the proposed loading dock.
108. The Department raised no concerns to the proposed access arrangements and recommends a condition requiring that operational and service vehicle access complies with Australian Standard AS 2890.

Servicing and loading

109. Delivery and service vehicles would utilise the new loading dock on the service road frontage, although small vehicles (e.g. pathology pick-up and urgent blood delivery) will be able to use the available short term parking spaces. The gas tanker will only access the carpark 'out of hours' and cones will be deployed to ensure adequate space is available and a 'safe zone' is established around the vehicle.

110. The Department acknowledges that servicing would occur via the Pacific Highway service road and considers that this would be located at a significant distance from any sensitive land users in the vicinity. The Department acknowledges that the proposed servicing and loading arrangements would be appropriate for the hospital operator in achieving their operational needs and no concerns are raised in this regard.
111. In its submission on the EIS, Council detailed that the submitted swept paths demonstrated limited manoeuvrability from Sydney Street turning left onto the Pacific Highway service road, along with the loading dock and ambulance drop-off. In the RtS, the Applicant provided additional swept path diagrams benefiting from an extension of the existing site survey, demonstrating the turning of all trucks (up to a 12.5m rigid vehicle) is satisfactory.
112. The Department acknowledges that servicing would be located a significant distance from nearby sensitive land users and the proposed servicing and loading arrangements would be appropriate for the hospital operator to achieve their operational needs.

6.1.5 Pedestrian safety

113. Existing pedestrian facilities at the site include a footbridge connection over Sydney Street to the existing medical centre, marked foot-crossing across Sydney Street, footpaths along the highway, Sydney Street and Casey Street, and traffic signal-controlled crossings at the Pacific Highway / Sydney Street intersection.
114. In its comments on the EIS, TfNSW raised concerns that the proposal resulted in several road safety risks on Sydney Street (conflict points in vehicle turning paths, pedestrian safety and potential vehicle queuing back onto the Pacific Highway traffic signals), directly related to the increase in traffic and pedestrian activity associated with the development.
115. To address these risks, TfNSW requested the submission of a Road Safety Audit (RSA) to determine the level of road safety risk and identify reasonable mitigation measures on the surrounding road and pedestrian networks.
116. An RSA was subsequently undertaken and includes findings and recommendations pertaining to the existing and proposed development scenarios, providing a safety 'risk' score for each item. **Table 13** provides a summary of the RSA findings.

Table 13 | RSA findings and recommendations

Item	Description	Risk	RSA comment	Applicant comment
Existing conditions				
Hughes St Multi-deck Carpark Pedestrian Access	Lack of provision of crossing facilities	Medium	Consideration of most appropriate crossing facility to allow for safe crossing of pedestrians.	Council advised it is their intention to provide a marked foot-crossing across Hughes Street immediately on the eastern side of O'Brien Street as part of the treatments for the implementation of the

Item	Description	Risk	RSA comment	Applicant comment
				High Pedestrian Activity Area scheme.
Hughes St Multi-deck Carpark Driveway	Vehicles cutting corner when entering / exiting	Low	Prevention of vehicles cutting corner on entry and exit would improve safety.	The provision of a marked foot-crossing with kerb extension (as above) will alter the circumstances but it is agreed that the situation will benefit from the provision of painted centre line marking.
Hughes St Western Footpath South of Sydney St	Provision of all-weather missing link pathway	Low	Consideration of provision of all-weather pathway to provide additional link to multi-deck carpark.	It is not apparent why staff or visitors associated with the hospital (the only users of the carpark) would walk along the western footpath. The need to provide a paved footpath is therefore considered a matter for Council.
Sydney St Pedestrian Refuge	Delineation to comply with relevant standards	Medium	Delineation of the pedestrian refuge in terms of line-marking and signage should be considered (as required by applicable standards).	It is agreed that the arrangement and treatment of the pedestrian refuge island should be compliant with the relevant standards.
Sydney St Accessible Parking Space	Non-compliant parallel accessible parking space blocks ramp access	High	Consideration should be given to the relocation of parking signage and provision of a compliant parallel accessible parking space as per the requirements of AS2890.6 and to ensure clear access to pram ramp serving space.	It is agreed that compliance with AS2890.6 cannot be achieved at this location. If acceptable to Council, a treatment compliant with AS2890.5 could be provided, or the existing marking removed and accessible parking for hospital staff and visitors be reliant on the existing spaces in the multi-deck carpark, or the proposed spaces in the new Casey Street carpark.

Item	Description	Risk	RSA comment	Applicant comment
Porte Cochere Shrubbery / Sight Lines	Existing hedge blocking sight lines to crossing pedestrians	Medium	<p>Consideration should be given to the cutting back or removal of the hedge adjacent to the porte cochere pedestrian access pathway.</p> <p>Removal of on-street car parking would achieve AS2890.1 sight line requirements for exiting vehicles.</p>	It is agreed that the hedge should be cut back and the two on-street parking spaces between the driveways could be removed subject to Council agreement.
Sydney St Marked Foot-crossing	Zig Zag line-marking provision	Low	During low level sun periods consideration could be given for the installation of Zig Zag line-marking, in particular for westbound traffic in Sydney Street, to forewarn drivers of existing marked foot-crossing.	This proposed provision is agreed.
Northbound Parking Pacific Highway	Safety of pedestrians parking northbound within the Pacific Highway wide parking lane	High	Consideration should be given to the installation of parking restrictions within the northbound parking / cycle lane of the Pacific Highway between Sydney Street and Casey Street as no suitable safe pedestrian access can be achieved to link with the existing pedestrian network.	It is agreed that the parking along the western side of the highway should be removed.
One Way Laneway Footpath	Trip hazards due to level difference between concrete pathway and adjacent grassed areas	Low	Consideration should be given to the maintenance of the grassed areas to minimise existing level differences.	It is considered that this is a maintenance matter for Council.

Item	Description	Risk	RSA comment	Applicant comment
Porte Cochere / Sydney St Access Arrangements	Ambulance Only Entry Signage / Line-marking	Low	Provision of 'No Entry Ambulance Vehicles Excepted' signage and directional arrows would improve safety at the exit driveway.	This provision is supported, with the directional egress arrow painted on the eastern side of the driveway.
Casey Street / One Way Laneway Interface	Lack of understood priority and U-turn provision	High	Provision of line-marking, Give Way signage and cul-de-sac pavement facilities would all improve safety at this intersection	These provisions are agreed.
O'Brien St Lighting	Blank wall and poor lighting for pedestrians / staff	Medium	Consideration should be given to improved lighting along blank wall in O'Brien Street north of Sydney Street.	This provision is agreed.
Future / proposed conditions				
Sydney St Footpath Connection to Pedestrian Refuge	Footpath connection to pram ramp serving pedestrian refuge	High	Consideration should be given for a direct footpath connection to pram ramp on northern side of Sydney Street to accommodate future increased use of footpath in O'Brien Street	This provision is agreed subject to the ability to achieve satisfactory grading of the new ramp.
Service routes	Safety impacts on service routes following redevelopment of the site	Low	There appears to be little to no impact on safety with the proposed works on service routes and ambulance access as service routes would not change. However, ambulance travel time to the relocate ambulance bays would increase marginally in the future.	It is agreed that the proposal will essentially maintain the existing access arrangements for service vehicles and ambulances, which do not present any operational difficulties particularly as drivers are familiar with the site access requirements.

117. TfNSW and Council reviewed the RSA and determined that the findings are appropriate and largely supported. The Department agrees and has recommended a condition that requires the works identified in the RSA be carried out, except where the measures are not supported by Council or TfNSW or are not the responsibility of the Applicant to implement.

118. Due to the projected increase in pedestrian traffic from the development and to ensure pedestrian safety, TfNSW have also recommended conditions requiring that: the pedestrian crossing on the northbound slip lane be signalised to operate as amber/red only, the existing median in Sydney Street be extended beyond the point of egress from the hospital drop-off area and that 'no entry' / 'entry' signs be installed with associated pavement arrows to reinforce the correct entry and exit points to the hospital drop-off area.
119. The Applicant has not raised any concerns with the imposition of these conditions.
120. The Department agrees with the position of TfNSW and Council and raises no road safety concerns, subject to the implementation of appropriate conditions as outlined above.

6.2 Built form and urban design

Architectural design concept

121. The submitted EIS and Architectural Design Report (ADR) states that the development concept has been designed with the following underlying objectives:
- promote the Connecting with Country framework and incorporate indigenous landscapes and local Awabakal culture, artwork and stories into the design.
 - create a sense of place at the corner of Casey and O'Brien Streets, promoting street activation and engagement.
 - enhance the streetscape with additional street trees, vertical greenery and connecting footpaths.
 - incorporate fine-grain articulation and massing to create a human scale experience.
 - maximise the extent of active and friendly street frontages.
 - orientate to minimise overshadowing to public spaces and adjoining areas.
122. The proposed building massing has been designed to coincide with the functional grouping of clinical services.
123. The proposed tower is positioned to align with the layout of the existing building, allowing for the creation of a link that creates a sense of continuity through the whole hospital building.
124. The main entrance on Casey Street is recessed to accommodate the drop-off point, and to create a sense of arrival.
125. Facade articulation breaks up the horizontal scale of the building. The ward floor is recessed to create additional visual privacy for the surrounding residentials. The building's façade is articulated with horizontal curved band that also acts as a sunshade device.
126. The façade is a composite of three main materials, namely insulated glass unit, fibre cement cladding and metal cladding.

Connecting with Country

127. During the early consultation phase of the development, the Applicant consulted with key members of the Awabakal community.
128. The Applicant shared the emerging design with community representatives and discussed initiatives including indoor and outdoor landscaping / planting opportunities, internal spaces featuring artworks, and external spaces where visual and tactile Connection with Country opportunities could be provided.
129. The Awabakal community representatives supported the proposal, noting:
- the proposed design ensures that art, planting, and other cultural incorporations are integral parts of the building's structure, not merely superficial additions.
 - the landscape design, includes gathering areas of various scales, with a seamless integration of Aboriginal art-inspired elements, such as the flooring in the main entry lobby, which extends the landscape design indoors.
 - the interior design concept has been carefully crafted to reflect and honour Awabakal culture, with artworks selected from local Aboriginal artists, including pieces from Mandalong Gallery. These artworks are visually integrated and also guide the thematic and colour palette of different areas within the building.
 - it is proposed to name specific areas within the development using Awabakal names. This process requires collaboration with the hospital during the detailed design phase.
 - the proposal includes a healing garden, specifically designed to incorporate plants with known healing properties, further integrating the cultural and therapeutic aspects of the development.
 - the development would not block or disrupt any existing views of significant cultural landscapes, such as the Awabakal Nature Reserve, Lake Macquarie, or nearby beaches.
130. The Department raises no concerns having regard to the Connecting with Country principles.

Bulk and scale

131. The proposal comprises a six-storey building that would have a maximum height of 18.6m (RL60.575 AHD) when measured from existing natural ground (including plant). As prescribed under the Height of Buildings map in the LMLEP, the northern portion of the site is subject to a 37m height limit. The proposal complies with the building height development standard under clause 4.3 of the LMLEP (red dotted line in **Figure 19**).
132. The building would have a total GFA of 16,717sqm. The site is not subject to a Floor Space Ratio (FSR) development standard under the LMLEP. In the absence of any FSR controls, the Department has undertaken a merit assessment of the floor area, site coverage and massing of the proposal.
133. The ADR notes that the hospital tower design was selected instead of a 'spread out' campus design to enable the tower to be constructed with minor disruption to existing hospital operations.

134. As shown in **Figure 19**, the proposed 18.6m building height of the hospital tower is well within the prescribed 37m height limit under the LMLEP. As the proposal complies with the development standard, the Department is satisfied that the height of the development is in keeping with the height anticipated for the northern portion of the site and the existing low scale residential context in which the development would be situated.
135. Having regard to massing of the hospital tower, the development would be located approximately 23m from the nearest adjoining residential and commercial properties across Casey Street to the north and 75m to the nearest adjoining properties residential dwellings to the west. The Department considers the building separation between the development and the adjoining properties to be considerable and the built form and massing to be generally sympathetic to the surrounding site context.

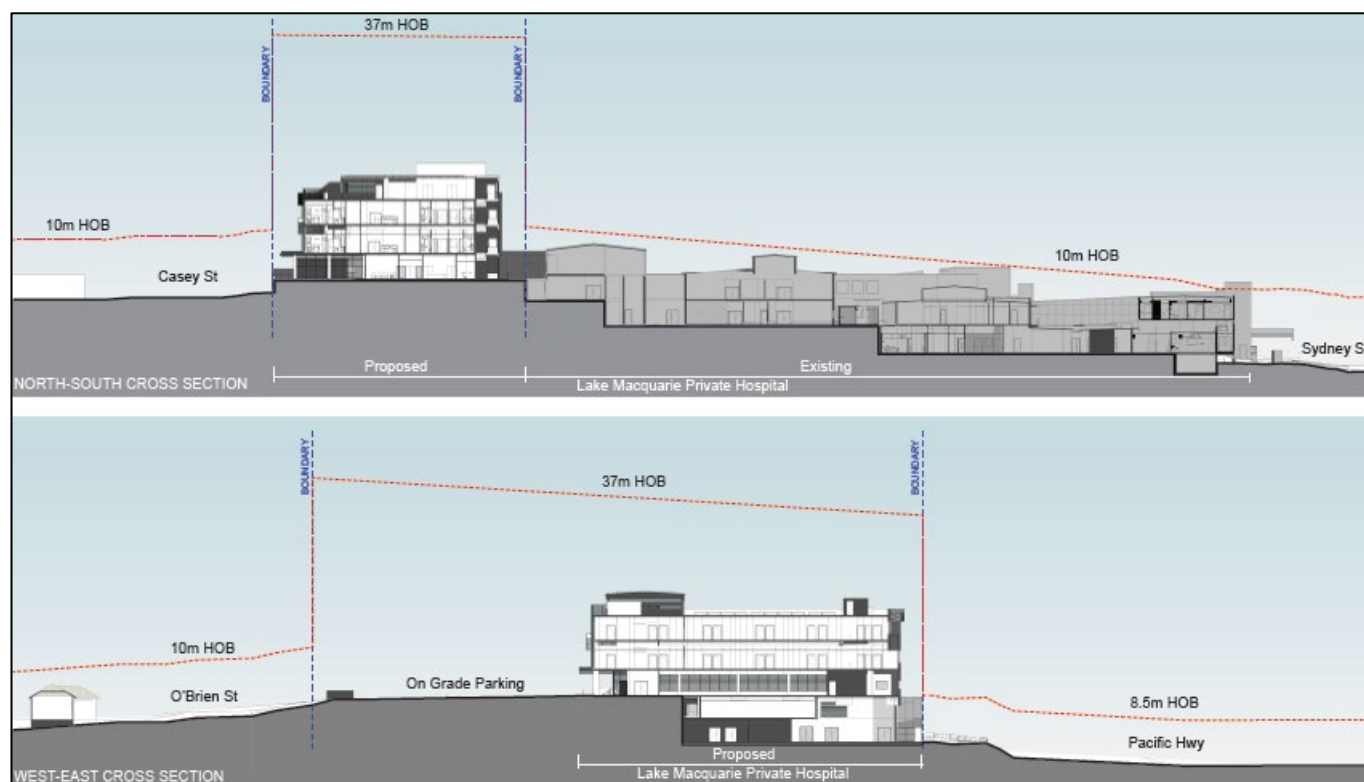


Figure 19 | Building height in the context of adjoining development (source: ADR)

136. The Department notes that the NSW Government Architect did not raise concerns with the proposal with regard to built form, height or massing when reviewing the proposed development after lodgement.
137. On balance, the Department deems the bulk and scale of the proposal acceptable.

Façade design

138. The building façade would be comprised of a composite of three main materials: Low-E insulated glass unit, fibre cement cladding and metal cladding. Façade types are:
- full height curtain wall at entry corner and entry lobby.
 - fibre cement / metal cladding and window wall at bedrooms.

- perforated metal screen band along façade.

139. **Figures 14 and 15** illustrate the indicative facades of the proposed development.
140. The ADR states all building finishes materials are considered in relation to their environmental character with high recycled content or recyclable at disposal, with low embodied energy, rapidly renewable, durable, easy maintenance, durability, low-emission and manufactured locally when possible. Green building products which are labelled by internationally recognised and independent certification bodies are preferred.
141. Regarding the lower level of the eastern elevation, Council raised concerns that the proposed façade facing the Pacific Highway and the use of a roller door rather than undercroft for the loading dock results in greater visual impact. Council recommended articulation of the wall at ground level.
142. As part of the RtS, the Applicant submitted amended architectural plans indicating amendments to the loading dock façade to provide greater articulation, including the removal of the service driveway and substation, lowering and tapering of the generator room wall and amendment to the façade tones, and patterning to improve the corner treatment consistent with the proposed landscaping.
143. The Department has determined that the design amendments have adequately addressed the recommendations of Council.
144. The Department considers the facades to be generally consistent with the existing hospital materials and finishes whilst being of a contemporary design appropriate for a medical facility. On balance, the proposed materials, finishes and façade treatments are deemed acceptable.

Public domain

145. The application proposes public domain upgrades, focusing on O'Brien and Casey Streets with upgrades to footpaths and the addition of seating areas and trees. Minor public domain works are also proposed along the Pacific Highway service road, comprising a footpath and landscaping.
146. Broadly, the ADR states that the O'Brien and Casey Street corner has been designed with the intention of softening the public/private interface and providing additional landscaping, pedestrian steps, and bleachers. The Applicant maintains that the proposed public domain design would maximise street engagement by opening up the street intersection, providing direct sightlines from surrounding areas and through the provision of informal seating along edge of the public space, which promotes outdoor gatherings.
147. More specifically, the application proposes the following public domain works:
- the Casey Street/O'Brien Street corner is proposed to be landscaped.
 - landscaping along Casey Street, with a landscaped garden proposed on Council's road reserve.
 - a 1.8m wide concrete footpath around the corner of O'Brien Street and Casey Street.

148. The Department considers that the proposed public domain spaces would provide a series of high amenity gathering spaces for the public, and improve the streetscape, site accessibility, and pedestrian safety. Although the public domain works would interface with residential zoned land across Casey and O'Brien Streets, the Department has determined that the distance and anticipated passive usage of these spaces would effectively mitigate against any potential amenity issues.

6.3 Noise and vibration

149. The application was accompanied by a Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (NVIA) that assessed the operational and construction noise and vibration impacts associated with the development at nearby sensitive receivers, residential properties to the west (R2), east (R4) and north (R1 and R3), a commercial receiver to the north (C6) and education receiver to the east (S5) (see Figure 20).

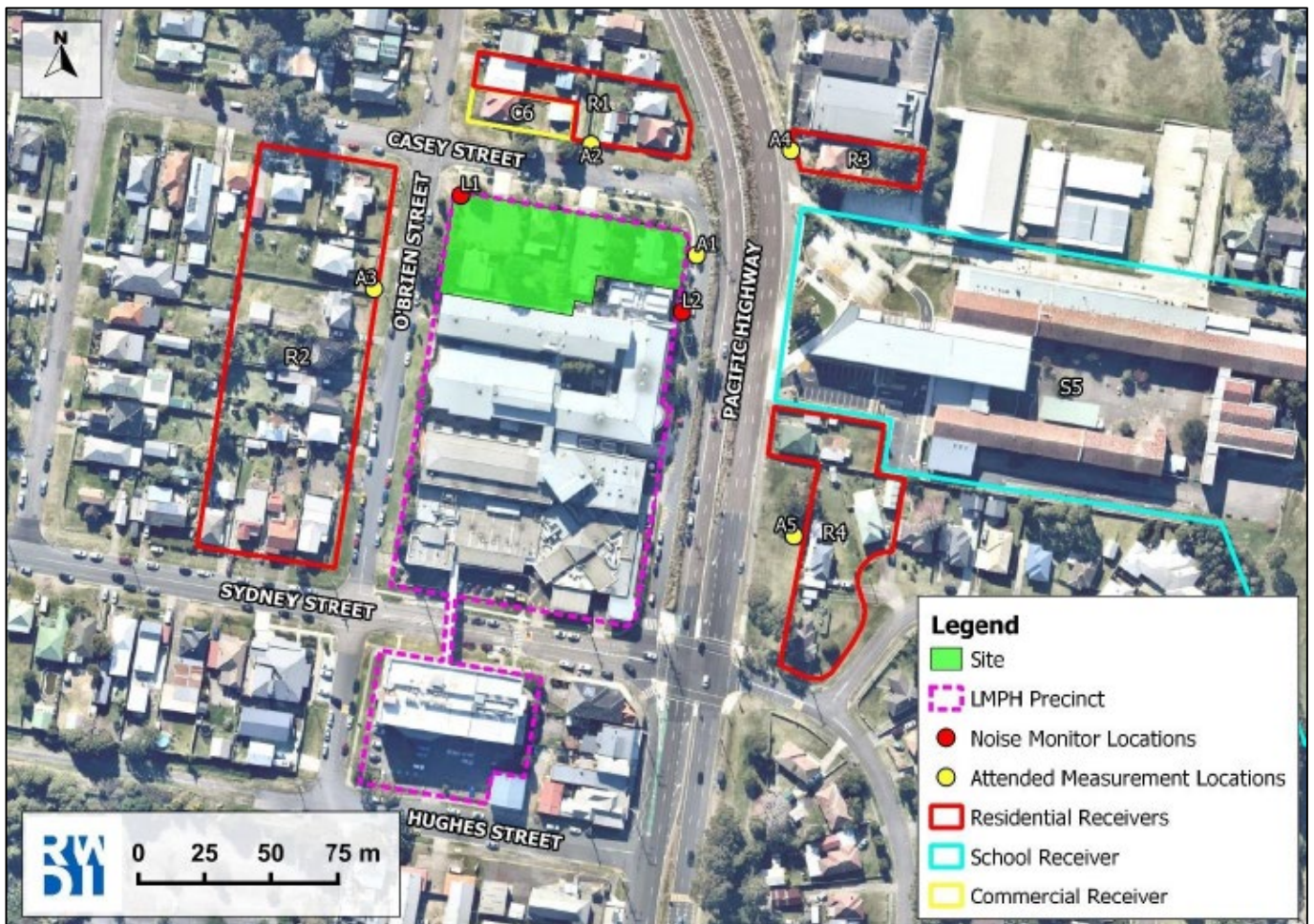


Figure 20 | Aerial photo of nearby sensitive receivers (source: NVIA)

150. In preparing the NVIA, the Applicant undertook an unattended noise survey to establish the ambient and background noise levels of the site and surrounds in accordance with the EPA's NSW Noise Policy for Industry 2017 (NPfI). The survey was conducted at:
- the corner of Casey Street and O'Brien Street to measure background noise levels for neighbouring residences to the north and west of the site.

- along the eastern façade of the existing hospital facing Pacific Highway to measure traffic noise levels as well as the ambient noise conditions for receivers to the east of the site across Pacific Highway.

151. The NVIA also included short-term attended noise measurements around the site to supplement the unattended noise monitoring, shown in **Figure 20**.

Construction noise

152. The application proposes standard construction hours (7am – 6pm Monday to Friday; 8am – 1pm Saturday; no work on Sundays or Public Holidays).

153. The NVIA has categorised construction noise generating activities into three distinct classes, namely demolition / clearing, excavation / piling and construction. Noise impacts from these construction activities on the amenity of the surrounding sensitive receivers have been outlined in the NVIA and are provided in **Table 14**.

Table 14 | Construction noise levels at receivers (source: NVIA)

Stage	Receiver	Noise Level – LAeq, 15 min dBA			
		Predicted Noise Level		Noise Affected Noise Management Levels (NMLs)	Highly Noise Affected NML
		Without Noise Mitigation	With Noise Mitigation		
Demolition / Clearing	R1	56-72	54-64	51	75
	R2	49-70	40-62	51	
	R3	60-66	56-60	57	
	R4	45-60	44-51	57	
	S5	56-63	54-58	55	N/A
	C6	56-72	54-64	70	N/A
Excavation and Piling	R1	70-77	67-71	51	75
	R2	61-75	57-70	51	
	R3	68-73	63-68	57	
	R4	51-64	49-57	57	
	S5	66-70	60-65	55	N/A
	C6	70-77	67-71	70	N/A
Construction	R1	70-75	64-68	51	75
	R2	65-70	63-68	51	
	R3	67-69	62-65	57	
	R4	49-62	47-55	57	

Stage	Receiver	Noise Level – LAeq, 15 min dBA			
		Predicted Noise Level		Noise Affected Noise Management Levels (NMLs)	Highly Noise Affected NML
		Without Noise Mitigation	With Noise Mitigation		
	S5	63-66	56-62	55	N/A
	C6	70-75	64-68	70	N/A

Note 1. Noise Affected NML (shown in orange): The point above which there may be some community reaction to noise.

Note 2. Highly Noise Affected (≥ 75 dBA) (shown in red): The point above which there may be strong community reaction to noise.

154. During construction, noise from demolition and clearing works are:

- generally expected to exceed the noise affected NML at all receivers when demolition works are occurring at the site boundary closest to each respective receiver.
- the noise affected NML at R1 is expected to be exceeded by up to 21dBA when demolition works are occurring near the northern boundary of the site.
- noise from demolition works is expected to comply with the NMLs at the R2 receiver when the works are taking place towards the eastern boundary.
- noise from demolition and clearing works is predicted to generally be below the NML at C6 except when works are taking place along the northern boundary nearest this receiver, where a 2dBA exceedance of the NML is predicted.

155. Excavation and piling works are:

- generally expected to result in exceedances of the NMLs at receivers R1-R3, S5 and C6.
- expected to be a 2dBA exceedance of the highly noise affected NML (75dBA) at R1 when excavation/piling works are occurring along the northern boundary.
- expected to comply with the NMLs at R4 when these receivers do not have line of sight to the construction activities (i.e. when the works are taking place towards the western boundary of the site).

156. Construction stage works are expected to result in exceedances of the NMLs at all identified receivers, with exceedances of up to 24dBA of the noise affected NML predicted at receiver R1. There are no expected exceedances of the highly noise affected NML.

157. These represent a worst-case scenario, and noise mitigation measures could be undertaken to further mitigate the acoustic impacts outlined above. The preliminary feasible and reasonable mitigation measures recommended in the NVIA include:

- usage of portable temporary screens.
- provision of screens or enclosures for stationary equipment.

- maximising the offset distance between noisy plant items and sensitive receivers.
- using noise source controls, such as the use of residential class mufflers.
- orienting equipment away from sensitive receivers.

158. During standard construction hours, no further action is required where all feasible and reasonable work practices are applied and predicted noise is still above the highly noise-affected level. The Department notes that even with the above mitigation measures in place, noise levels are unlikely to be reduced below the NMLs in all cases. However, some noise disruption is unavoidable, and all feasible and reasonable mitigation measures would be implemented during standard construction hours.
159. To this end, the Department recommends a condition requiring the preparation of a Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP) to ensure that the acoustic impacts of construction works are managed in accordance with the EPA's Interim construction noise guideline (2009). The CNVMP is required to outline management and mitigation measures generally in accordance with the Applicant's NVIA.

Construction vibration

160. The nearest neighbouring buildings to the site are approximately 27m north of the site, across Casey Street.
161. Vibration impacts are expected during demolition and construction at both neighbouring receivers and the existing hospital. The NVIA recommends management and mitigation methods including vibration surveying, minimum working distances for vibration intensive plant from sensitive receivers and the use of alternative lower vibration construction methods and equipment. The Department is satisfied that construction vibration impacts can be managed and mitigated, with measures to be set out in the Applicant's CNVMP.

Operational noise

162. The noise generating activities associated with the operation of the development would predominantly comprise loading dock noise, vehicle movements within the carpark and the drop-off areas along Casey Street, noise from oxygen truck deliveries and mechanical plant noise. The NVIA identified the operational noise criteria under the relevant provisions of the NPfI and has identified project specific noise levels (PSNLs) at nearby sensitive receivers, to determine the operational noise limits for operation of the development. The project specific noise levels are outlined in **Table 15**.

Table 15 | Project specific noise levels at nearby sensitive receivers (excluding oxygen tank refilling) (source: NVIA)

Receiver Location	Time of Day	Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels (LAeq. 15min)	Project Amenity Noise Level (LAeq. 15 min)	Sleep Disturbance (LAmax)	Noise Criteria (External) (LAeq. 15min)
R1	Day	44	53	52	46

Receiver Location	Time of Day	Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels (LAeq, 15min)	Project Amenity Noise Level (LAeq, 15 min)	Sleep Disturbance (LAmax)	Noise Criteria (External) (LAeq, 15min)
	Evening	37	43		43
	Night	37	38		38
R2	Day	46	53	52	46
	Evening	35	43		43
	Night	33	38		38
R3	Day	46	58	52	52
	Evening	31	48		47
	Night	30	43		39
R4	Day	45	58	52	52
	Evening	41	48		47
	Night	39	43		39
S5	Day	44	43 – External	N/A	Day - 43
C6	Day	47	63	N/A	Day - 63

163. **Table 15** demonstrates that cumulative noise emissions at all residential receivers and commercial receiver C6 complies with the acoustic requirements of the NPfI.
164. Notwithstanding the projected noise emissions in **Table 15**, cumulative noise impacts at the R2 residential receiver is expected to exceed the daytime noise criteria by 2dBA due to the electric motor/pump refilling the proposed oxygen tank. Refilling of the oxygen tank would occur once every three to four weeks, and the duration of the activity is expected to be no longer than 15 minutes.
165. Noise impacts at the school receiver (S5) are predicted to exceed the nominated external criteria by 1dBA. The NVIA states that a 2dBA exceedance is considered indistinguishable from a compliant noise level.
166. The NVIA notes that traffic noise impacts at the school receiver (S6) are expected to be approximately 55 to 56 LAeq externally outside the classrooms during school hours. This traffic noise level is 11 to 12dBA above the predicted noise impact from the proposed development. Noise impacts from the site are expected to be barely audible to inaudible at the school receiver during the most intense periods of use from the site. Closing classroom windows is expected to result in at least a 20dBA outdoor-to-indoor noise reduction to the classroom. This would result in an internal noise level of approximately 24dBA within the classrooms, which is compliant with the 33 LAeq, 15min internal noise criteria of the NPfI. Considering the above, there are no adverse noise impacts expected at the school receiver.

167. Traffic generation is not predicted to result in any noticeable change in traffic noise levels and is expected to meet EPA's NSW Road Noise Policy (2011) requirements.
168. To minimise noise emissions from the development during operation, the NVIA recommends noise mitigation measures including limitations on the operational hours of the loading dock and oxygen truck deliveries (7am to 6pm), carpark floor materials and finishes and a detailed review of mechanical plant design and locations.
169. The Department is satisfied that operational noise impacts generated by the development can be adequately managed and mitigated, subject to the verification of noise attenuation measures during the detailed design stage and verification of operating conditions upon commencement of operations. The Department has recommended conditions requiring the proposals comply with the project specific noise levels (PSNLs) set out in the NVIA and that post-occupation monitoring be conducted.

6.4 Other issues

170. The Department's consideration of other issues is summarised in **Table 16**.

Table 16 | Assessment of other issues

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
Amenity impacts	<p><u>Wind impacts</u></p> <p>The application is supported by a Pedestrian Wind Assessment (PWA).</p> <p>The PWA concludes that the proposed building incorporates design measures that significantly reduce wind impacts around the site, including the sheltered positioning of the primary entry and drop-off areas, an articulated building design with significant setbacks along the northern aspect, and the relatively low exposure due to the building's height in comparison to neighbouring structures. Consequently, overall wind impacts are anticipated to be minimal.</p> <p>The PWA does not recommend any mitigation measures beyond the proposed landscape design.</p> <p>The Department raises no concerns with regard to wind impacts.</p> <p><u>Visual privacy</u></p> <p>Having regard to visual privacy, the Department has assessed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed tower would be located approximately 23m from the nearest adjoining residential and commercial properties across 	<p>Conditions have been recommended requiring the implementation of the light emission requirements in Australian Standard AS4282: 1997 Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.</p>

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>Casey Street to the north and 75m to the nearest adjoining properties residential dwellings to the west.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any views to O'Brien Street and Casey Street would only be present when standing directly at the window and given the nature of those using these rooms, this is unlikely to occur frequently. As can be seen, any views these properties would generally not be visible when standing elsewhere in the rooms. no community submissions have been received regarding visual privacy impacts. <p>The Department raises no concerns having regard to visual privacy.</p> <p><u>Solar access and overshadowing</u></p> <p>The Department is satisfied the proposal would avoid unacceptable overshadowing impacts, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> whilst the proposal would result in some internal overshadowing of the existing hospital buildings between 9am and 3pm during the winter solstice, these hospital buildings are already impacted by 'self-shadowing' during these hours. any increase in overshadowing would be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> existing hospital buildings within the site. the adjoining roads (the Pacific Highway service lane and Pacific Highway). a carpark across Pacific Highway within St. Marys Catholic College. the proposal is consistent with the NSW LEC planning principles outlined in 'The Benevolent Society v Waverley Council [2010] NSWLEC 1082' having regard to sunlight access, noting that a minimum of three hours of sunlight access between 9am and 3pm on June 21 would be received within habitable rooms and the private open space of all adjoining residential properties. the proposed northern drop-off and landscaped areas, and upper-level impatient units and medical suites are located to the northern side of the site and hospital tower and would receive a high level of solar access and amenity. 	

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p><u>Lighting impacts</u></p> <p>Due to the 24-hour nature of the hospital use, external lighting would be required throughout the night.</p> <p>The proposed external lighting would not have an impact on surrounding receivers, subject to compliance with Australian Standard AS4282: 1997 Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting.</p>	
Crime prevention	<p>The ADR outlines that the project has been designed in accordance with the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.</p> <p>The Department is satisfied that the design solutions and operational measures proposed provide opportunities for passive surveillance, delineation/ownership of spaces, pedestrian circulation/activation and maintenance of physical elements.</p> <p>The Department is satisfied that these design solutions and operational measures are consistent with CPTED guidelines and would provide a safe and secure environment for staff, patients and visitors.</p>	<p>The Department is satisfied that CPTED principles have been suitably applied to the project. No recommended conditions or mitigation measures are required.</p>
Tree removal	<p>The application has been accompanied by an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA).</p> <p>The AIA proposes the removal of 61 trees to facilitate the construction of the hospital development, footpaths, driveways and landscaping works.</p> <p>Of the 61 trees proposed to be removed, the AIA has determined that six trees would be of a 'medium' retention value (tree Nos. 18, 52, 56, 57, 61 and 62) and one tree has been assessed as comprising a 'high' retention value (tree No. 15 – Brush Cherry). The remaining 54 trees have been assessed as having a 'very low' to 'low' retention value.</p> <p>Tree No. 15 is located to the north-eastern portion of the site and its removal is necessary to facilitate construction of the landscaping works and building footprint. The Department considers tree No. 15 cannot be reasonably retained without significant design amendments due to its positioning and expansive root zone.</p>	<p>The Department has conditioned mitigation and management measures, including implementation of tree sensitive design and construction methods when building within Tree Protection Zones (TPZs) and Structure Root Zones (SRZs) of trees proposed for retention.</p>

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>The Department notes that the proposal would offset the required tree removal. The existing canopy cover within the site is 425sqm (3 per cent). Upon completion of the landscaping works, the total on-site canopy cover would be 194.1sqm (6.6 per cent), with an additional 228sqm planted.</p> <p>Overall, the Department considers that retention of the trees would not outweigh the substantial health and community benefits that the expanded hospital facility would provide. On balance, the Department is satisfied that the proposed tree removal and impact on retained trees is acceptable, subject to recommended conditions.</p>	
Landscaping	<p>The application has been supported by Landscape Report.</p> <p>The application proposes the planting of 21 canopy trees on the site and nature strip surrounding the site, including Spotted Gum and Brush Box, with mature heights ranging between 4.5 to 15 metres.</p> <p>The proposed on-site landscape coverage would be 653sqm (4.6 per cent).</p> <p>The landscape design concentrates its focus on the Casey and O'Brien streets frontages, incorporated into the public domain entry and outdoor seating areas. Along with providing shade and amenity benefits, the Applicant has advised that the foliage would obscure the line of sight from the development and provide visual privacy to the adjoining residential properties along Casey and O'Brien Streets.</p> <p>The Department notes that the proposal would offset the required tree removal. The existing canopy cover within the site is 425sqm (3 per cent). Upon completion of the landscaping works, the total on-site canopy cover would be 194.1sqm (6.6 per cent), with an additional 228sqm planted.</p> <p>Council reviewed the proposed landscaping scheme and raised no concerns to the proposal as amended. The Department agrees with Council's conclusions and considers the proposed landscaping to be an improvement over the existing scheme.</p>	<p>The Department has recommended conditions requiring that landscaping be completed prior to the issue of the final occupation certificate.</p>

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
Geotechnical investigations	<p>The application has been accompanied by a geotechnical investigation and mine subsidence investigation.</p> <p><u>Subsurface conditions and structural design</u></p> <p>The site is underlain by a Permian aged Tickhole Formation, typically including conglomerate, sandstone and shale.</p> <p>The geotechnical investigation fieldwork included the drilling of four boreholes into bedrock to depths ranging between 17.36m and 29.45m. The investigation determined the bedrock to be 'competent', however seams of completely weathered rock / residual clay and bands of very low strength rock were also identified. A lower coal seam, generally about 3.5m to 4m thick was also present within the competent rock mass.</p> <p>Based on the results of the site investigations, the geotechnical investigation provides recommendations on excavation, retention, footings, anchors, pavements and drainage.</p> <p>The assessment confirmed that based on the subsurface conditions, the proposal can be successfully constructed on the site.</p> <p><u>Groundwater</u></p> <p>Groundwater was measured at approximately RL36.0 in wells installed in Bores 701 and 703, and at about RL37.5 during the drilling of Bore 704. The proposed bulk excavation level would be RL37.6 (Lower Ground 2 Level), with locally deeper excavation for the lift shaft. This suggests that groundwater could potentially be within 1.6m of the bulk excavation level of Lower Ground 2, and possibly above the locally deeper excavation level for the lift shaft.</p> <p>To ensure groundwater does not impact the lower ground levels, the geotechnical investigation includes recommendations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the basement design include a 300mm thick gravel drainage blanket beneath the floor slab. • the lift shaft be fully tanked to withstand hydrostatic pressure below the floor lobby. 	<p>Conditions are recommended by the Department requiring that the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development is constructed in accordance with the BCA and any additional requirements of SA NSW. • findings and recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation are imposed during construction.

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> pressure relief valves be installed for groundwater rise, and careful waterproofing and drainage should be applied to basement walls to reduce hydrostatic pressure. <p>The Department notes these recommendations.</p> <p><u>Mine subsidence</u></p> <p>As the site is within the Lake Macquarie Mine Subsidence District and undermined by abandoned workings in the Victoria Tunnel seam, the application included a mine subsidence investigation.</p> <p>The investigation included the drilling of two boreholes to the base of the Victoria Tunnel (VT) Seam (Bores 705 and 706 to depths of 124.42 m and 128.64 m, respectively), geophysical logging, CCTV inspection, sonar imaging and engineering analysis.</p> <p>Subsidence Advisory NSW (SA NSW) raises no concerns with the proposal, subject to the imposition of the conditions of previous Subsidence Advisory NSW approvals, to ensure that the proposed development is designed and constructed to be safe, serviceable and readily repairable should subsidence occur.</p> <p>The Department notes the findings of the mine subsidence investigation and relevant conditions are recommended.</p>	
Visual impact and views	<p>The application has been supported by a Visual Impact Assessment Report (VIA).</p> <p>The site is not identified within the Lake Macquarie Scenic Management Guidelines 2013 as containing any lake/coastal landscapes, conservation values, indigenous landscapes or other heritage significance and is not considered to be a visually sensitive landscape. However, the site is located along Pacific Highway with potentially a high visibility from the main road and a high visual sensitivity to change from this location.</p> <p>The VIA found that the proposal would have 'low/moderate' to 'high' impacts on existing public domain views, and 'no' to 'moderate' impacts in the potential future context.</p> <p>The Department's assessment concludes that the proposal would have limited impacts on views from</p>	No conditions are recommended.

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>the public domain and would not detrimentally obstruct view corridors to a waterbody or landmark. In addition, in considering the reasonableness of the impact with compliance with development standards, the proposed development would have a maximum height of 18.6m, with the site being subject to a 37m height limit. In this regard, the height of the proposed development is minimal compared to that permissible under the LMLEP.</p>	
Stormwater management	<p>The application as amended has been accompanied by an amended Stormwater Management Plan.</p> <p>The stormwater strategy proposes to direct all runoff to an onsite detention system before directing flows along the Pacific Highway Laneway to an existing pit.</p> <p>Council raised no concerns with the proposed method of stormwater disposal, subject to a condition requiring an s138 <i>Roads Act 1993</i> approval prior to the issue of the construction certificate.</p> <p>The Department raises no concerns with the proposed method of stormwater disposal.</p>	<p>Conditions are recommended requiring that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> adequate provisions be made to collect and discharge stormwater drainage during construction the stormwater system be designed generally in accordance with the Stormwater Management Plan. a s138 approval be granted prior to the issue of the relevant construction certificate.
Flooding	<p>The application has been accompanied by a Flood Compliance Letter which outlines that the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is outside the flooding extent during the 1% AEP and the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) flood events. does not require any flood risk management controls and the proposed development within the property would not pose any impact on existing flood behaviour. <p>Council and EHG reviewed the EIS and Flood Compliance Letter and concur that the site is not subject to flooding during 1% AEP and PMF flood events.</p> <p>The Department has no concerns regarding flooding.</p>	No conditions are recommended.

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
Hazards and risks	<p>The application has been accompanied by a Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA).</p> <p>The proposed quantity of liquid oxygen storage is above the thresholds set out in the Department's Applying SEPP 33 guideline (2011). The application proposes the installation of a 15,000L (or 17,115kg) liquid oxygen tank located to the western side of the proposed at-grade carpark.</p> <p>Based on the PHA, the tank would be surrounded by a 120/120/120 fire-rated wall.</p> <p>The Department has assessed that the proposed Fire Resistance Level (FRL) specified in the PHA for the screen wall does not meet the requirements of Australian Standard AS 1894 (1997), which requires a FRL of 240/240/240.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the Department is satisfied that the liquid oxygen storage, fire rated wall and separation distances would comply with Australian Standard AS 1894, subject to the imposition of recommended conditions including that the fire rating of the screen wall be increased to an FRL of 240/240/240.</p>	<p>The Department recommends conditions requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that dangerous goods be stored and handled in accordance with all relevant Australian Standards and the NSW EPA's Storing and Handling of Liquids: Environmental Protection – Participants Manual. the submission of a certificate demonstrating that the liquid oxygen storage area meets the separation requirements of Australian Standard AS 1894.
Contamination and remediation	<p>The application has been accompanied by a Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) and a Remediation Action Plan (RAP).</p> <p>The DSI was undertaken to assess potential contaminant sources and to confirm investigation requirements (if any) and inform potential remediation options for the site.</p> <p>The DSI concluded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two exceedances of the adopted soil health investigation levels (HILs) and health screening levels (HSLs) were detected in fill samples and comprised of lead and Benzo[a]pyrene (B(a)P). several exceedances of the adopted soil ecological investigation levels (EILs) and ecological screening levels (ESLs) were detected in fill samples and comprised of zinc, copper and B(a)P. 	<p>The Department concurs with the recommendations of the DSI and RAP. Accordingly, conditions are recommended requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementation of the remediation measures outlined in the RAP. preparation of a Validation Report. engagement of a NSW EPA-accredited Site Auditor to provide advice throughout the duration of works.

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asbestos fines (AF) and/or friable asbestos (FA) was detected in fill samples collected and analysed from several test locations. • bonded asbestos containing material (ACM) fragments were observed in fill and positively identified at several test locations. • based on the recorded soil exceedances and presence of asbestos, remediation of the site would be required to render the site suitable for the proposed development. • while minor heavy metal, nutrient and physical parameters exceedances were identified in groundwater, the results are not considered to be significant and groundwater remediation is not considered to be warranted. • groundwater may be intercepted during the excavation of the proposed lift pit. It is recommended that groundwater level gauging is conducted periodically prior to construction to assess fluctuation in groundwater levels over time and its implications on dewatering and basement design. • due to the current groundwater quality, treatment would be required prior to discharge to sewer under a Hunter Water Corporation trade waste agreement or stormwater subject to regulatory approval. Alternatively, the groundwater could be disposed off-site via a licensed contractor. <p>The DSI considers that the site can be made suitable for the proposed development, subject to the implementation of a RAP.</p> <p>The RAP determined that the preferred remediation strategy is for the excavation and off-site disposal of all general / contaminated fill and has recommended processes to ensure the risks and impacts during remediation works are controlled in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>The Department reviewed the RAP and is satisfied that the recommendations are consistent with guidelines endorsed by NSW EPA. Subject to the implementation of the measures described in the RAP, the site can be made suitable for the proposed development.</p>	

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
Waste management	<p>An Operational and Construction Waste Management Plan (OCWMP) accompanied the application to assess the volumes and management of waste during construction and operation.</p> <p><u>Construction waste</u></p> <p>The OCWMP estimates 5,495 cubic metres of waste would be generated during construction, of which approximately 2,080 cubic metres (or 37.8 per cent) would be diverted from landfill and recovered for beneficial on-site and off-site reuse and/or reprocessing. Ordered from highest volume to least, the most common types of construction waste would be soil, rock, timber, steel, concrete, packaging, pallets, general waste, plasterboard, floor coverings, paper and glass. The OCWMP states that material reuse would be significantly higher if not for the abundant presence of coal in the soil to be excavated.</p> <p>The Department raises no concerns regarding construction waste management, noting the conclusions and recommendations of the OCWMP.</p> <p><u>Operational waste</u></p> <p>The OCWMP estimates that the existing LMPH generates 176 cubic metres of operational waste per week. The proposed LMPH redevelopment is estimated to generate 268 cubic metres of operational waste per week, equating to an increase of 52.27 per cent a week compared to existing. All collections will take place from the main Hospital's waste storage dock.</p> <p>The Department has assessed the operational waste generated by the development to be minimal and appropriately managed.</p> <p><u>Removal of hazardous materials</u></p> <p>The submitted Hazardous Materials Surveys (HMS) relating to existing structures proposed to be demolished to the north of the site (within the 10 O'Brien Street and 3 Sydney Street allotments) identified the presence of hazardous materials in the form of Bonded Asbestos (ACM), Synthetic Mineral Fibre (SMF), Lead and Ozone Depleting Substance (ODS). The HMS' include recommendations for the safe removal of hazardous materials from the site.</p>	<p>The Department recommends a condition of consent requiring the preparation of a final Operational Waste Management Plan and Construction Waste Management Sub-Plan.</p>

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>The Department has assessed that the hazardous materials would be safely removed from the site, subject to the imposition of recommended conditions.</p>	
<p>Aboriginal cultural heritage</p>	<p>An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) accompanied the application, including a field survey.</p> <p>The ACHAR includes a search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS). AHIMS did not identify any Aboriginal sites within the study area, with the nearest registered site located approximately 325m to the south.</p> <p>The most common Aboriginal archaeological evidence identified in proximity to the study area are stone artefacts (isolated or scattered), grinding grooves or combined shell and artefact sites. The ACHAR concludes that the study area has low to negligible potential to contain Aboriginal archaeological objects or sites within a subsurface context, and no potential for the identification of objects or sites in a surface context.</p> <p>The field survey identified the subject site has been subject to extensive prior disturbance during the construction of the existing hospital complex and residential dwellings. Minimal topsoil was observed across the project area. Due to the nature of the project area and extent of existing disturbance, no areas of archaeological potential were identified during the field survey.</p> <p>The ACHAR has determined that the proposed development is not expected to have any impact on Aboriginal objects, subject to the implementation of the recommendations specified under Section 6 of the ACHAR. The recommendations include the preparation of an induction and unexpected finds procedure.</p> <p>Heritage NSW ACH raised no concerns regarding the ACHAR's recommendations. In addition, Heritage NSW ACH recommends that Aboriginal heritage management procedures are included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p>	<p>The Department recommends conditions requiring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the recommendations within Section 6 of the ACHAR be implemented. • that Aboriginal heritage management procedures are included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>The Department agrees with the conclusions of the ACHAR and the advice provided by Heritage NSW ACH.</p>	
<p>Social impact</p>	<p>The application was supported by a Social Impact Assessment (SIA).</p> <p>The SIA found that positive impacts of the proposed development include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved and expanded medical services and facilities to service the region. • improved LMPH site accessibility facilitated by improvements to existing site access, pedestrian infrastructure, and public-private interfaces. • provision of new and attractive public spaces resulting in improved social amenity. • ongoing community investment as a result of the LMPH, resulting in positive community development and improvements in the social locality. • improved health and wellbeing for the broader community and hospital users. • improved understanding of the project and its potential impacts through engagement with key stakeholders. <p>However, the SIA also found that the proposal would have negative impacts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disruptions to LMPH site accessibility, and accessibility for neighbouring residents and businesses given lack of car parking in the area. • disruptions to road infrastructure and traffic affecting LMPH site accessibility and property accessibility for neighbouring residents and businesses. • privacy impacts for neighbouring residences, businesses, and services given the proposed height of the new hospital tower affecting social amenity and way of life. • project noise and vibration impacting on surrounding social amenity. 	<p>Conditions are recommended requiring that the recommendations of the SIA be implemented.</p>

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing urban form impacting on local character in the precinct. • changes in community cohesion due to construction workforce influx and presence in the locality. • potential physical health impacts, and psychological stress associated with project development and experience of impacts. <p>To manage potential impacts, the SIA recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development and implementation of a construction and operational traffic management plan for construction and operational phase activities. • implementation of a park-and ride service from a suitable location for the construction workforce to reduce intensity of car parking demand in the local area. • communication of road closures and changes to local community members in line with the implementation of a Communication and Engagement Plan. • pursuing further engagement with community members, and key stakeholders such as Council, to identify strategies, mechanisms, and solutions to address traffic-related impacts should they arise in project development. • providing feedback to the community on how community issues have been incorporated in project design and management measures identified to address key impacts. • implementation of relevant mitigation measures in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan and other relevant management plans. • development and implementation of a community engagement strategy, with project grievance mechanisms, to support ongoing dialogue between Ramsay Health, and community members and key stakeholders during construction and operational phase activities. <p>The SIA concludes that the identified negative social impacts of the project can be mitigated or managed</p>	

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>to reduce their significance if the appropriate mitigations are put in place.</p> <p>The Department is satisfied the revised SIA accords with the Department's Social Impact Assessment Guideline 2023.</p> <p>The Department considers the proposal would represent a net overall positive social impact.</p> <p>The Department is satisfied that the recommendations of the SIA can mitigate any potential negative impacts of the development.</p>	
Building Code of Australia (BCA)	<p>A Regulatory Compliance Report (BCA Report) accompanied the application reviewing the capability of the proposed design to meet the requirements of the BCA. Overall, it is considered that the development is capable of complying with the BCA requirements, either via Deemed to Satisfy Provisions or through the preparation of Performance Solutions.</p> <p>The Department concurs with the findings of the BCA Report.</p>	<p>The Department recommends a condition requiring that the proposed development be constructed in accordance with the relevant requirements of the BCA.</p>
Signage	<p>Three signs are proposed to be installed to the perimeter of the site and building, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x painted entry identification wall sign to the north elevation of the building (400mm(w) x 13,600mm(h)). • 1 x illuminated building identification sign to the eastern elevation of the building (1,280mm(w) x 5,895mm(h)). • 1 x directional entry pylon sign to the Casey Street frontage (2,700mm(w) x 900mm(h)). <p>The signage has been assessed against the requirements of State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021 at Appendix C.</p> <p>The Department is satisfied that the proposed signage zones would be consistent with the guidelines set out in the Industry and Employment SEPP.</p>	<p>Illumination of the signage would be managed through a condition of consent requiring that lighting/illumination comply with the latest version of Australian Standard AS 4282-2019 - Control of the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting.</p>
Access	<p>An Access Capability Statement (ACS) has been submitted as part of this application.</p>	<p>The Department recommends a condition requiring the proposed</p>

Issue	Findings and conclusions	Recommended conditions
	<p>The ACS reviews the capability of the proposed design to meet the requirements of the BCA, <i>Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010 (Premises Standards)</i> and relevant Australian Standards relating to access.</p> <p>The ACS concludes that the design is generally capable of meeting the relevant requirements, subject to standard design development.</p> <p>The Department notes the findings of the ACS and raises no concerns in this regard.</p>	<p>development be designed and constructed to provide access and facilities for people with a disability in accordance with the BCA.</p>
Development contributions	<p>The development is subject to the requirements of the 'Lake Macquarie City Council Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan – Citywide 2019'.</p> <p>Council has requested the payment of a development contribution equating to 1% of the 'development cost' for the proposed development.</p> <p>The Department has considered the Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan and agrees that a contribution should be paid by the Applicant for the proposed development.</p>	<p>The Department has recommended a condition requiring payment of a development contribution.</p>

7 Evaluation

171. The Department's assessment has considered the relevant matters and objects of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act), including the principles of ecologically sustainable development (**Section 3** and **6**), advice from government agencies, Council and public submissions (**Section 5**), and strategic government policies and plans (**Section 4**). Issues raised in public submissions have been considered and all environmental issues associated with the proposal have been thoroughly addressed, with conditions recommended to address any outstanding issues.
172. The proposed development is consistent with the objects of the EP&A Act (including ecologically sustainable development) and with the NSW State and Premier's Priorities, Hunter Regional Plan 2041, Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036, Transport for NSW's Future Transport Strategy 2056, Infrastructure NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042, Lake Macquarie Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and the Lake Macquarie Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032.
173. The proposed development has minimal impact on the flow of traffic in the surrounding street network. On-site car parking requirements are exceeded, and construction worker parking is addressed through nearby carparks and a bus shuttle service to the hospital site.
174. The design incorporates Connecting with Country elements, enhances the streetscape, and meets environmental sustainability standards. The building massing complies with height limits and integrates well with the surrounding area.
175. Amenity impacts are minimal, with no significant visual, overshadowing, or privacy issues. Noise and vibration during construction will be managed, and operational noise is mostly compliant, with minor exceedances at a nearby school. Mitigation measures are in place, and post-occupation monitoring will ensure compliance.
176. Overall, the development addresses potential impacts and integrates well with its surroundings. Consequently, the Department has formed the opinion that the:
- proposal is in the public interest as it would deliver public benefits to meet the demands of the growing population.
 - impacts of the proposed development is acceptable and can be appropriately mitigated through the implementation of consent conditions.
 - development would provide economic benefits, generating approximately 80 full-time equivalent construction jobs and 26 operational jobs through investment in health infrastructure.
 - project should be approved subject to conditions.

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Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
AHD	Australian height datum
CIV	Capital investment value
Council	Lake Macquarie City Council
Department	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
EIS	Environmental impact statement
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>
EP&A Regulation	Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021
EPI	Environmental planning instrument
ESD	Ecologically sustainable development
LMLEP	Lake Macquarie Local environmental plan
Minister	Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Planning Systems SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021
SEARs	Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements
Secretary	Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
SEPP	State environmental planning policy
SSD	State significant development
TfNSW	Transport for NSW

Appendices

Appendix A – List of referenced documents

The following supporting documents and supporting information to this assessment report can be found on the Department's website as follows:

1. Environmental Impact Statement

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/lake-macquarie-private-hospital-tower>

2. Submissions and agency advice

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/lake-macquarie-private-hospital-tower>

3. Response to Submissions

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/lake-macquarie-private-hospital-tower>

4. Additional information

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/lake-macquarie-private-hospital-tower>

Appendix B – Statutory considerations

Objects of the EP&A Act

A summary of the Department's consideration of the relevant objects (section 1.3 of the EP&A Act) are provided in **Table 17**.

Table 17 | Objects of the EP&A Act and how they have been considered

Object	Consideration
(a) to promote the social and economic welfare of the community and a better environment by the proper management, development and conservation of the State's natural and other resources,	The development would ensure the proper management and development of land for the provision of hospital facilities to meet an identified community need and provide significant social and economic benefits to the community.
(b) to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations in decision-making about environmental planning and assessment,	The proposal includes measures to deliver ecologically sustainable development (ESD) as described below.
(c) to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land,	<p>The proposal meets the objectives of the SP2 zone of the Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 and would deliver a hospital consistent with the objectives of State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 and overarching strategic policies for the locality. The expansion would also be of economic benefit through job creation and infrastructure investment.</p> <p>The site's economic development is both logical and orderly as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers employment-generating opportunities in both the construction and operational phases in an area already earmarked by both State and Regional policies for employment and health advancement.• provides both a new economically and ecologically sustainable development, delivering new industry-best-practice in hospital construction.• provides a genuine and obvious development of existing hospital land, further reinforcing the notion of orderly development, within an area already designated for such purposes.• includes increased provisions for landscaping, helping to revitalise and naturally landscape a

Object	Consideration
	<p>substantial canopy cover across the site, further minimising the potential impacts of the urban heat island effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improves water-quality for stormwater in accordance with the requirements of Council's engineering guidelines.
(d) to promote the delivery and maintenance of affordable housing,	Not applicable
(e) to protect the environment, including the conservation of threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats,	The proposed development has obtained a BDAR Waiver and would not result in any impacts to threatened and other species of native animals and plants, ecological communities and their habitats.
(f) to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (including Aboriginal cultural heritage),	The proposed development has been designed and would be managed to promote the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage (see Section 6).
(g) to promote good design and amenity of the built environment,	The proposal has been reviewed by the NSW Government Architect during the assessment of this SSDA, who raised no concerns with the proposed design. The Department considers the overall built form of the development to be complementary to existing development within the hospital campus and surrounding locality (see Section 6).
(h) to promote the proper construction and maintenance of buildings, including the protection of the health and safety of their occupants,	The Department has considered the proposed development and has recommended conditions of consent to ensure construction and maintenance is undertaken in accordance with legislation, guidelines, policies and procedures (Appendix C).
(i) to promote the sharing of the responsibility for environmental planning and assessment between the different levels of government in the State,	The Department publicly exhibited the proposal (Section 5.1) and consulted with Council and other public authorities and considered their responses (Section 4 and 5).
(j) to provide increased opportunity for community participation in environmental planning and assessment.	The Department publicly exhibited the proposal as outlined in Section 5.1, which included notifying adjoining landowners and displaying the proposal on the Department's website.

Ecologically sustainable development

The EP&A Act adopts the definition of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) found in the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991*. Section 6(2) of that Act states that ESD requires the effective integration of economic and environmental considerations in decision-making processes and that ESD can be achieved through the implementation of:

- the precautionary principle.
- inter-generational equity.
- conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.
- improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms.

The Department required the Applicant to demonstrate how the principles of ESD have been incorporated into the project, including how it addresses:

- national best practice sustainable building principles to improve environmental performance and reduce ecological impact.
- projected climate change impacts.

The application proposes ESD initiatives and sustainability measures, including:

- provision of solar PV.
- installation of roof insulation.
- use of efficient building fabric and glazing.
- use of efficient ventilation design, pump systems, lighting design, water fixtures and features.
- conducting a Life Cycle Assessment during the design and construction stages.
- alignment of Sustainability Strategy to the Green Star Building rating tool to achieve equivalent to a 4 Star outcome.

The proposal seeks to minimise greenhouse gas emissions (reflecting the Government's goal of net zero emissions by 2050) and consumption of energy, water (including water sensitive urban design) and material resources. In addition, the Applicant has committed to the implementation of the Ramsay Health Care sustainability strategy, which targets a 42 per cent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030 and net zero by 2040 across Ramsay's operations, including the proposed development. These targets have been set using the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) which is the global standard for effective climate action.

Overall, through the implementation of the initiatives noted within the ESD Report the project demonstrates the developments commitment to ESD principles throughout the design, construction, and operation. Additionally, the Applicant advises that the development has been designed to optimise the sites energy performance, address key climate related risks posed to the site, align the project to the NSW Government's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2050, and has benchmarked the project to industry best practice sustainability.

The Department has considered the proposed development in relation to the ESD principles. The precautionary and inter-generational equity principles have been applied in the decision-making process via a thorough and rigorous assessment of the environmental impacts. The proposed development is consistent with ESD principles as described in **Section 6.1.9** and **Appendix 10** of the Applicant's EIS, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of clause 192 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EP&A Regulation).

Overall, the proposal is consistent with ESD principles, and the Department is satisfied the proposed sustainability initiatives would encourage ESD, in accordance with the objects of the EP&A Act.

EP&A Regulation

The EP&A Regulation requires the Applicant to have regard to the Department's State Significant Development Guidelines (2024) when preparing their application. The Department considers the submitted EIS and development application to be prepared generally in accordance with the SSD Guidelines.

The EIS has addressed the EIS form and content criteria within clauses 190 and 192 of the EP&A Regulation. Similarly, the EIS has addressed the principles of ecologically sustainable development through the precautionary principle (and other considerations), which assesses the threats of any serious or irreversible environmental damage.

Subject to any other references to compliance with the EP&A Regulation cited in this report, the requirements for Notification (Part 8, Division 2) and Fees (Part 13, Division 1 to 4) have been complied with.

Environmental Planning Instruments (EPIs)

To satisfy the requirements of section. 4.15(a)(i) of the EP&A Act, this report includes references to the provisions of the EPIs that govern the carrying out of the project and have been considered in the Department's assessment.

EPIs considered as part of the assessment of the proposal are:

- State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022
- Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP).

State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021

Chapter 2 of the Planning Systems SEPP identifies State significant development (SSD). An assessment of the development against the relevant provisions of the Planning Systems SEPP is provided in .

Table 18 | Planning Systems SEPP compliance table

Relevant Sections	Consideration and Comments	Complies
2.1 Aims of Policy The aims of this Policy are as follows: (a) to identify development that is State significant development	The proposed development is identified as SSD.	Yes
2.6 Declaration of State significant development: section 4.36 (1) Development is declared to be State significant development for the purposes of the Act if: a) the development on the land concerned is, by the operation of an environmental planning instrument, not permissible without development consent under Part 4 of the Act, and b) the development is specified in Schedule 1 or 2.	The proposed development is permissible with development consent.	Yes
Schedule 1 State significant development – general 14 Hospitals, medical centres and health research facilities Development that has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million for any of the following purposes: (a) hospitals, (b) medical centres, (c) health, medical or related research facilities (which may also be associated with the facilities or research activities of a NSW local health district board, a University or an independent medical research institute).	The proposal is for a hospital with a capital investment value (CIV) in excess of \$30 million.	Yes

State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

Remediation of land

The State Environmental Planning (Resilience and Hazards) 2021 (Resilience and Hazards SEPP) aims to promote the remediation of contaminated land for the purpose of reducing the risk of harm to human health or any other aspect of the environment.

Section 4.6 stipulates that a consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of development unless:

- it has considered whether the land is contaminated, and if the land is contaminated, it is satisfied that the land is suitable in its contaminated state (or will be suitable, after remediation) for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out; and
- if the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, it is satisfied that the land would be remediated before the land is used for that purpose.

The submitted DSI and RAP confirms that the site can be made suitable for the proposed development, subject to the successful implementation of the recommendations (see **Section 6**).

Potentially hazardous or potentially offensive development

Chapter 3 of the Resilience and Hazards SEPP establishes a protocol for planning for development that can be categorised as Potentially Hazardous or Potentially Offensive Development. The Department's SEPP 33 Guidelines (2011) establish screening thresholds for Dangerous Goods stored on-site.

The redeveloped hospital will store up to 15,000L of liquid oxygen which would exceed the applicable screening threshold in the guidelines. A Preliminary Hazard Analysis (PHA) was submitted with the application. The PHA concludes that the risks at the site boundary and surrounding area would be below the acceptable criteria and the proposed development would be suitable for the land use. The following recommendations have been made within the PHA:

- ensure all hazardous chemical storage facilities onsite comply with the relevant Australian Standards.
- undertake a Hazardous Area Classification (HAC) for the hospital precinct where flammable liquids (Class 3) are stored.
- prepare the documentation required for the hospital precinct per Part 7.1 of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

The Department is satisfied that the risks associated with the storage and handling of dangerous goods at the proposed site can be controlled through the application of the relevant Australian Standards, subject to conditions.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Industry and Employment) 2021 (Industry and Employment SEPP) applies to all signage that can be displayed under an EPI with or without development consent and is visible from any public place or public reserve.

Section 3.6 states a consent authority must not grant development consent to an application to display signage unless the consent authority is satisfied that the signage:

- is consistent with the objectives of the SEPP.
- satisfies the assessment criteria specified in Schedule 5 of the SEPP.

Three signs are proposed to be installed to the perimeter of the site and building, comprising:

- one painted entry identification wall sign to the north elevation of the building (400mm(w) x 13,600mm(h)).
- one illuminated building identification sign to the eastern elevation of the building (1,280mm(w) x 5,895mm(h)).
- one directional entry pylon sign to the Casey Street frontage (2,700mm(w) x 900mm(h)).

The proposed signage is considered to be building/business identification signage for the purpose of assessment under the Industry and Employment SEPP. Accordingly, the objectives of the Industry and Employment SEPP and the criteria in Schedule 5 – Assessment Criteria of the Industry and Employment SEPP require consideration.

The table (Table 19) below provides an assessment of the proposed signage against the criteria in Schedule 5 of the SEPP.

Table 19 Industry and Employment SEPP - Signage Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Comments	Compliance
1 Character of the area		
Is the proposal compatible with the existing or desired future character of the area or locality in which it is proposed to be located?	The proposed signage is compatible with the existing and desired future character of the site and other development within the immediate area.	Yes
Is the proposal consistent with a particular theme for outdoor advertising in the area or locality?	The proposed signage is consistent with the locality. No third-party advertising is proposed.	Yes
2 Special areas		
Does the proposal detract from the amenity or visual quality of any environmentally sensitive areas, heritage areas, natural or other conservation areas, open space areas, waterways, rural landscapes or residential areas?	The proposed signage is considered consistent with the proposed built form and would not detract from the amenity or visual quality of the surrounding area. The site is not near any environmentally sensitive areas, heritage areas, natural or other conservation areas, open space areas, waterways or rural landscapes. The signage has been designed so as to minimise views from and impacts on the surrounding residential areas.	Yes
3 Views and vistas		
Does the proposal obscure or compromise important views?	The proposed signage would be of a height and scale consistent with the built form on the site and would not disrupt any views or dominate views toward or through the site.	Yes
Does the proposal dominate the skyline and reduce the quality of vistas?	The proposed signage is considered to be of a reasonable scale and location on the building and would not dominate the skyline.	Yes
Does the proposal respect the viewing rights of other advertisers?	The signs do not obstruct the views of any existing signage on or in the vicinity of the site.	Yes
4 Streetscape, setting or landscape		
Is the scale, proportion and form of the proposal appropriate for the streetscape, setting or landscape?	The proposed signage has been designed in respect of the proposed built form on the site to effectively identify the operations of the site. The proposed signage is compatible with the character of the site and its surrounds.	Yes
Does the proposal contribute to the visual interest of the streetscape, setting or landscape?	The proposed signage would visually define the operations of the site and create a visually coherent built form.	Yes
Does the proposal reduce clutter by rationalising and simplifying existing advertising?	The proposed signage has carefully considered the location and design of existing signage within the hospital campus and would not contribute to any visual clutter. It does not comprise any advertising.	Yes
Does the proposal screen unsightliness?	The proposed signage is not used as a visual screen or filter.	Yes

Criteria	Comments	Compliance
Does the proposal protrude above buildings, structures or tree canopies in the area or locality?	The proposed signs do not protrude above the proposed roof/canopy height.	Yes
Does the proposal require ongoing vegetation management?	The proposed signs do not require ongoing vegetation management.	Yes
5 Site and building		
Is the proposal compatible with the scale, proportion and other characteristics of the site or building, or both, on which the proposed signage is to be located?	The proposed signage is of a suitable scale and design for its intended purpose to effectively identify future operations of the Subject site and would integrate with the existing built form and façade design to achieve visual coherence.	Yes
Does the proposal respect important features of the site or building, or both?	The proposed signs are respectful in their design and are appropriately integrated with the features of the buildings. The proposed signage is located at key areas of the site, including at the site and building entrances.	Yes
Does the proposal show innovation and imagination in its relationship to the site or building, or both?	The proposed signage has been integrated with the layout of the site so as not to obstruct any vehicle movements and achieve a positive visual outcome.	Yes
6 Associated Devices and logos with advertisements and advertising structures		
Have any safety devices, platforms, lighting devices or logos been designed as an integral part of the signage or structure on which it is to be displayed?	Not applicable.	Yes
7 Illumination		
Would illumination result in unacceptable glare?	Illumination would be minor and the proposed illuminated signs have been suitably located so as to not result in any unacceptable glare.	Yes
Would illumination affect safety for pedestrians, vehicles or aircraft?	No	Yes
Would illumination detract from the amenity of any residence or other form of accommodation?	No	Yes
Can the intensity of the illumination be adjusted, if necessary?	No. Given the nature of the use, illumination of the signage is required to provide safe and effective wayfinding, particularly in times of emergency.	Yes
Is the illumination subject to a curfew?	No - illumination of the signage is required to provide safe and effective wayfinding 24/7.	Yes
8 Safety		
Would the proposal reduce safety for any public road?	The proposed signage does not contain images, flashing lights, moveable parts and the like which would impact upon road safety.	Yes

Criteria	Comments	Compliance
Would the proposal reduce safety for pedestrians/cyclists?	The proposed signage would not obstruct any pedestrian or cycle routes or infrastructure and therefore would not negate the safety of pedestrians or cyclists.	Yes
Would the proposal reduce safety for pedestrians, particularly children, by obscuring sightlines from public areas?	The proposed signage would not obscure sightlines from public areas.	Yes

As demonstrated above, the proposal complies with the aims and objectives of this SEPP. The signage is considered compatible with the proposed development, provides effective communication, is suitably located and is of a high-quality design and finish.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021 (TI SEPP) aims to facilitate the effective delivery of infrastructure across the State by improving regulatory certainty and efficiency, identifying matters to be considered in the assessment of development adjacent to particular types of infrastructure development, and providing for consultation with relevant public authorities about certain development during the assessment process.

Section 2.122 of the TI SEPP requires the consent authority to provide TfNSW with written notice of the development application for developments considered a 'traffic generating activity'.

The proposal involves the provision of less than 100 additional hospital beds, and accordingly the proposal is not considered a 'traffic generating activity'. Notwithstanding, the application was referred to TfNSW for general comment. As detailed in **Section 6.1**, the Department is satisfied that the proposed development would not pose adverse traffic impacts, subject to conditions.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022

The Sustainable Buildings SEPP aims to encourage the design and delivery of sustainable buildings, including minimise energy consumption, minimise use of potable water, optimise thermal performance and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It aims to ensure assessment is undertaken consistently, sustainability of buildings data is recorded and embodied emissions is monitored.

The consent authority must consider whether the development is designed to: minimise waste; reduce peak demand for electricity; reduce reliance on artificial lighting and mechanical heating and cooling through passive design; generate and store renewable energy; monitor energy consumption; and minimise the consumption of potable water.

The consent authority must also be satisfied the embodied emissions attributable to the development have been quantified and whether the development will minimise the use of on-site fossil fuels, as part of the goal of achieving net zero emissions in New South Wales by 2050.

The Department has assessed the project against the relevant requirements in the Sustainable Buildings SEPP and considers the project has provided the appropriate data regarding embodied emissions, will be fossil fuel-free and has been designed to meet the design considerations stipulated in the Sustainable Buildings SEPP as it will achieve a 4 Star Green Star rating.

Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP)

The LMLEP aims to promote the efficient and equitable provision of public services, infrastructure and amenities; to apply the principles of ecologically sustainable development; and to facilitate development and public facilities in appropriate areas, which are accessible to a range of population groups and to accommodate Lake Macquarie City's social and economic needs.

The Department consulted Council throughout the assessment process and considered all relevant provisions of the LMLEP and matters raised by Council in its assessment of the development (refer to **Sections 5 and 6**). The Department concludes the development is consistent with the requirements of the LMLEP. Consideration of the relevant clauses of the LMLEP is provided in **Table 20**.

Table 20 Consideration of the LMLEP

LMLEP	Department Consideration
Land Use Table – SP2 Infrastructure	<p>The Lake Macquarie Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LMLEP) identifies the site as being located within the SP2 Infrastructure (Health Services Facility) zone. Development for the purpose shown on the SP2 Infrastructure Land Zoning Map (such as a health services facility – which includes hospitals) is permitted with consent under the LMLEP.</p> <p>The proposed development is permissible with consent under LMLEP.</p> <p>The proposal is consistent with the SP2 objectives as it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • would provide health related infrastructure consistent with the zone objectives. • prevents development that is not compatible with or that may detract from the provision of infrastructure. • would provide additional land for the development and expansion of major health, education and community facilities.
Clause 4.3 Height of buildings	<p>Clause 4.3 of the LMLEP stipulates maximum building height controls for the site, with a 37m limit to the northern portion of the site and a 10m height limit to the southern portion (shown in Figure 21).</p>

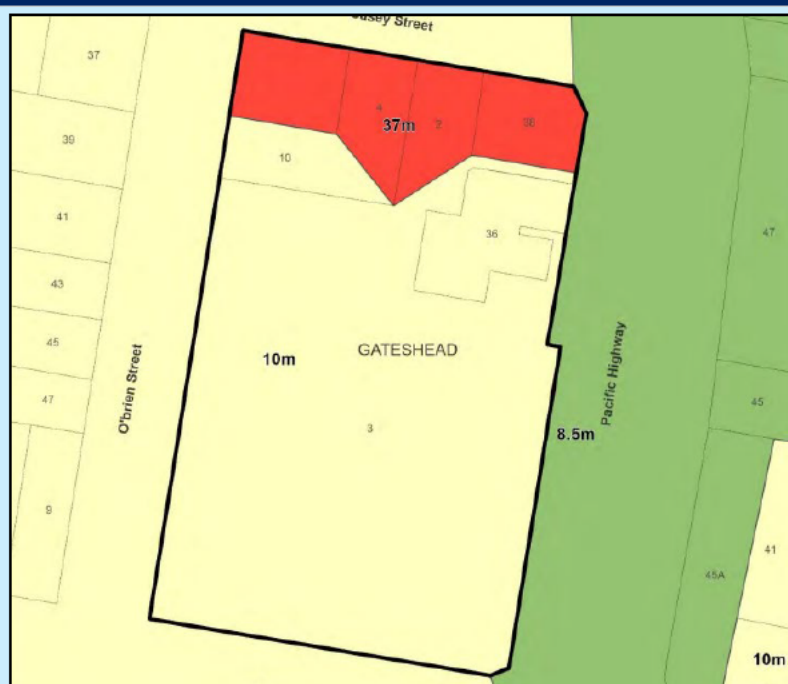


Figure 21 | LMLEP Height of buildings map

The proposed development has a maximum building height of 18.6m within the 37m limit portion of the site, which complies with the prescribed maximum building height limit.

Clause 4.4 Floor space ratio

The site is not subject to a floor space ratio control.

Clause 5.10 Heritage conservation

There are no heritage items located on or near the site. The site is not in a heritage conservation area.

Clause 5.21 Flood planning

Clause 5.21 of the LMLEP provides that consent must not be granted to development on land within the flood planning area unless the consent authority is satisfied the development:

- a. is compatible with the flood function and behaviour on the land, and
- b. will not adversely affect flood behaviour in a way that results in detrimental increases in the potential flood affectation of other development or properties, and
- c. will not adversely affect the safe occupation and efficient evacuation of people or exceed the capacity of existing evacuation routes for the surrounding area in the event of a flood, and
- d. incorporates appropriate measures to manage risk to life in the event of a flood, and

LMLEP	Department Consideration
	<p>e. will not adversely affect the environment or cause avoidable erosion, siltation, destruction of riparian vegetation or a reduction in the stability of riverbanks or watercourses.</p> <p>The proposed development is not identified as being within a 'flood planning area' as defined in the Floodplain Development Manual (NSW Government, April 2005) (see Section 6.4).</p> <p>The Department is satisfied that the development would meet the objectives of Clause 5.21(1) and mandatory considerations under Clauses 5.21(2) and 5.21(3) of the LMLEP (see Section 6.4).</p>
<p>Clause 7.1 Acid sulfate soils</p>	<p>Clause 7.1 of the LMLEP seeks to ensure that development does not disturb, expose or drain acid sulfate soils and cause environmental damage.</p> <p>The site is located at an approximate height between RL39 to RL45 AHD. Acid sulfate soils occur in low-lying alluvial soils below RL10, but more generally below RL5. The submitted Geotechnical Report includes geotechnical investigations which confirm that the site is located in an area mapped as having no known occurrence of acid sulfate soils.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Geotechnical Report did not require the preparation of an Acid Sulfate Soils Management Plan.</p>
<p>Clause 7.2 Earthworks</p>	<p>Clause 7.2 requires the consent authority to consider the potential impact of the development on matters including drainage patterns, soil stability, flooding in the locality, likely future use of the land, quality of the fill or the soil to be excavated, the effect of the development on amenity of adjoining properties, the source of fill material and the destination of excavated material, the likelihood of disturbing relics and impacts on waterways.</p> <p>Earthworks are proposed to be undertaken across the site to achieve the desired building design levels, including the removal of 14,000m³ of existing fill.</p> <p>The proposed extent of earthworks is considered acceptable as the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • works would not adversely impact on the existing drainage patterns and soil stability of the locality. • proposed works would not impact on the capacity for any future redevelopment of the land. • excavated fill exported off site will be conditioned to be suitably validated prior to its removal and would be subject to a separate approval. • extent of earthworks proposed would not detrimentally impact on the amenity of adjoining land uses and would be managed on site. • likelihood of discovering and impacting on any relics has been assessed as low and conditions for unexpected finds have been recommended.

LMLEP	Department Consideration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sediment and erosion control measures proposed to be implemented on-site by the Applicant during site works will minimise any potential for off-site impacts.

Other policies

In accordance with clause 2.10 of the Planning Systems SEPP, Development Control Plans do not apply to SSD. Notwithstanding, objectives of relevant controls under the Lake Macquarie Development Control Plan 2014, where relevant, were considered in **Section 6**.

Appendix C – Recommended instrument of consent

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/lake-macquarie-private-hospital-tower>