

Project Update

Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment

December 2024



Construction update

Progress is well underway on the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment's new Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit (MHIPU) and upgrade of the Emergency Department (ED).

Construction commenced in July and both sites have been a hive of activity since, with site establishment, service connections, civil works, and concrete pours leading up to the commencement of structural works, which are now underway.

Structural walls of the Acute MHIPU are now starting to take shape, at the same time as civil works continues for the dedicated carpark which will service the unit.

The completion of a concrete slab of the ED extension has enabled lightweight framing and brickwork to be installed, as well as the addition of structural steel beams. Preparation work for ED Stage 2 works, including the installation of electrical cables and partitions inside the ED are also underway.



Meet the contractors BBQ

Around 50 people, including LHD and hospital staff, members of the project team, and local business and tradies joined representatives from the construction company Barpa for a barbeque on-site in August.

This was a great opportunity for the team to have a chat to people interested in the redevelopment about what to expect and opportunities to be involved. Thanks to Barpa for hosting this event.



Take 5 with Annabelle Matthews

Senior Manager Planning & Service Development, Far West Local Health District

What does your role involve?

As Senior Manager Planning and Service Development, my work is quite broad and can change from day to day (which definitely keeps it interesting), but in a nutshell I help to inform and support service planning and development across the district. Think preparation of business cases, briefs, data analysis, and reporting.

We're creating world class, contemporary, fit for purpose facilities that are bigger and better than the existing spaces.

How involved have you been in the planning, design and now delivery of the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment project?

I started with Far West about halfway through the design phase of the project. While a number of the planning decisions had already been made, we were refining documentation and were ready to start socialising early designs with staff and community. I loved manning the pop-up stands with the team outside the supermarkets and being involved with the staff and community user groups. My involvement has dropped a little now the project is in its delivery phase, however I'm still working in the background to activate as required.

What's been your favourite thing about being involved with the project so far?

So many things! I've learnt so much about Broken Hill, clinical redesigns, and the detail that goes into delivering capital redevelopments. I've met so many passionate people along the way, from within the hospital and the community. And I've really enjoyed slowly unveiling this project to the community and seeing people light up with confidence for the future of health care in Far West.

What are the challenges in a project like this from your perspective?

Maintaining a fully functional ED and Ambulance zone while the new ED is being built is definitely a major challenge. The clinicians, Ambulance reps, and construction teams have done such a good job to plan the redevelopment with as little impact as possible to existing operations.

What do you think will be the main benefits of the redevelopment for the hospital staff and the community?

We're creating world class, contemporary, fit for purpose facilities that are bigger and better than the existing spaces. The new facilities will be more enjoyable for staff to work in, and more modern for patients and their support systems to receive care in.

Current impacts during construction

We recognise that building new infrastructure can be disruptive to consumers, visitors, staff, nearby residents, businesses and road users.

All construction activities are carried out with the health and safety of the local community as our top priority. For your safety, please follow instructions at all times.

Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit:

A reminder that the following impacts will be in place until the Acute MHIPU is complete in mid-2025.

Changed traffic conditions impacting vehicle and pedestrian movements:

- The Thomas Street entry road is closed to vehicles and pedestrians. Vehicle entry to the hospital campus is only available via Chloride Street. Pedestrian access is available via the main hospital entry on Thomas Street and via the rear entry.
- A section of the internal Hospital Road adjacent to the Acute MHIPU work zone is also closed to vehicles and pedestrians. Access to three disabled car parks and the smokers' hut will remain.
- Vehicle access from Thomas Street to Safe Haven Café, the adjacent Far West Mental Health Recovery Centre and hospital residences will be maintained via the existing laneway off Thomas Street.
- Detours and signage is in place.
- A safe fire egress route will be maintained at all times.

Access:

- Closure of pedestrian access to the Oncology Unit, Renal Unit and Pathology – please access via front or rear main entries to the hospital. There are two after-hours access points off Thomas Street for clinicians.
- Temporary removal of the needle exchange facility adjacent to the Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Unit (SARU) – please use the facility provided outside of the Emergency Department at the rear of the hospital.
- The hospital bus stop is temporarily located at the front of hospital in Thomas Street until construction of the Acute MHIPU is complete.
- Services and rubbish removal access at the SARU building will be maintained from Thomas Street.

Parking:

- Closure of both rows in the western carpark.
- Hospital staff are encouraged to use street parking surrounding the hospital only to ensure car spaces closest to the hospital are available for the use of patients and consumers, especially the elderly and infirm.
- The total number of parking spaces will not be affected by the redevelopment and offset parking will be available after the completion of the Acute MHIPU in mid-2025.
- Broken Hill City Council has now reconfigured parking on Chloride Street, creating an additional 15 parking spaces.



Emergency Department:

The ED will continue to remain operational throughout the upgrade. The works are being delivered through a staged approach to minimise interruptions to emergency services during the construction period.

Work on Stage 1 of the ED upgrade will continue to progress between now and early next year, most of which is taking place externally, with some preparation for Stages 2 & 3 which will see reconfiguration works move inside the ED next year. Impacts from this work will be informed as appropriate.





Minister visits site

NSW Minister for Regional Health Ryan Park joined FWLHD Chief Executive Brad Astill and other LHD representatives for a visit of the construction site in early November.

This was a good opportunity for Minister Park to see how construction is progressing and to talk to the project team.

About the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment

In April 2022, the NSW Government announced the Broken Hill Health Service Redevelopment.

The redevelopment includes the construction of a new purpose-built Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit, which is being delivered under the NSW Government's \$700 million Statewide Mental Health Infrastructure Program. It will provide a contemporary, culturally safe, and therapeutic space with co-designed facilities for people with mental health needs, their families, carers and staff.

It also includes a \$12 million upgrade and expansion of the hospital's Emergency Department, which will be reconfigured to better meet the critical health needs of the region and includes a new dedicated 24/7 entry, a larger light-filled waiting area, and tailored treatment spaces for children and those requiring mental health services.

Next steps

Construction on the structural elements of the Acute MHIPU will continue, along with civil works. The Unit is expected to be complete in mid-2025.

Stage 2 works of the ED upgrade will commence in early 2025 and will include works to reconfigure the current ED interior spaces. The ED will remain operational throughout, with plans in place to minimise interruptions to service delivery - please be aware of this construction activity and be cautious when approaching or moving around work zones.

All works and any impacts will continue to be proactively communicated - we will continue to issue Works Notifications, staff emails and flyers, post on social media and the Health Infrastructure website, and also provide information in the local weekly newspaper.

The ED upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

We thank the community for their patience while we complete these important projects for Broken Hill.

Holiday shutdown

The Broken Hill Hospital Redevelopment sites will close over the Christmas shutdown period on the following dates:

- Site will shut down at close of business on Friday 20 December 2024
- Site will reopen on Monday 6 January 2025

There is no work planned to occur on site during the shutdown period.

The project team wishes Broken Hill Health Service staff, patients and the community a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to progressing this important project in 2025!



Health Infrastructure, Far West Local Health District and Broken Hill Health Service acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose lands the redevelopment project stands and pays respect to the peoples of the Wilyakali and Barkindji Nation, the Traditional Owners of this land.

For more information

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