



Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
Minister for Health
Minister for Urban Renewal
Member for Kurrajong

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Duncan *Tom*

Thank you for your letter of 28 November 2019 regarding petition numbers 29-19 and 32-19 lodged by Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA regarding the SPIRE Project.

The SPIRE Project is delivering a state-of-the-art new emergency, surgical and critical care facility to the Canberra Hospital. This transformational project will future-proof Canberra's main hospital facility by meeting the growing demand for healthcare, streamlining services and offering first-class clinical training opportunities, enabling us to provide the best care for Canberrans for generations to come.

The location of the SPIRE Project was based on consultation and technical work to understand the best location for this new development. This included consultation with clinicians, consideration of the space available on campus, the requirement for efficient linkages to other hospital services and the ability to keep all clinical services operational during construction – the latter being a core requirement of the project.

To date, the SPIRE Project has held numerous consultations with community stakeholders to inform service and infrastructure planning on the Canberra Hospital campus, including the scope of the SPIRE Project. These included early meetings with the Garran Primary School and Woden Valley Community Council prior to Government's funding of the project in the 2019-20 Budget. Since taking responsibility for the project on 1 July 2019, Major Projects Canberra (MPC) has undertaken further community meetings to provide project planning updates and gain an understanding of the local community's specific interests, concerns and aspirations associated with the SPIRE Project. This included meetings with the Garran Primary School and the Garran Residents' Association, a community consultation session hosted at Garran Primary School and a presentation at the Woden Valley Community Council.

In 2020, the SPIRE Project team is building on these initial consultations to ensure the community is involved in the design and delivery phases of the project. A Local Community Reference Group, established in February 2020, will work with the SPIRE Project team (and later in 2020 the main works contractor) to ensure the hospital's near neighbours are consulted on the design and construction of the project.

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This group will provide a formal mechanism for the community to have their voice heard and will, in turn, ensure the community is kept informed of decisions reached through this ongoing collaboration.

Several critical aspects of the SPIRE Project's design and delivery will be the focus of the Local Community Reference Group during 2020, including parking and local traffic, school access, urban design and consideration of delivery arrangements during the construction phase, due to commence in 2021.

Considerations surrounding traffic flow and road safety are a priority for the project in this early phase of the design process. MPC recently undertook traffic studies in and around the Canberra Hospital site to build on the work done during the concept design stage. The data from this survey is currently being analysed and will be shared with the Local Community Reference Group so that an approach can be collaboratively developed to help address community concerns on this matter.

The issue of parking is being addressed with the recent announcement of the construction of a temporary carpark near Canberra Hospital, with works due to start at the former CIT Woden campus in the coming months. The temporary carpark will alleviate parking and traffic pressures within the hospital precinct, providing approximately 1,100 spaces for hospital staff and contractors until a long-term solution is developed. Traffic impacts as well as parking demand and provision will be formally considered in partnership with the ACT Planning and Land Authority and Transport Canberra and City Services as part of the development assessment process. The Local Community Reference Group will be involved in these considerations and the local knowledge gleaned from the group will assist in ensuring optimal outcomes of these matters

There has been significant planning work on the Canberra Hospital campus over many years, including investment in much needed infrastructure upgrades on the site, such as the SPIRE Project and the expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. To ensure that the clinical and logistical operations of the campus are best supported by current and future capital investment projects, the ACT Government is currently developing the Canberra Hospital Master Plan. The Master Plan will look beyond the investments currently underway on site to ensure that all the new and existing health infrastructure on the campus supports the best outcomes for our community. The ACT Government is committed to ensuring the safety of hospital staff, patients and visitors and the Master Plan will include extensive consultation with clinicians, the workforce on the campus, and the local community. A design consultant to lead this work has been appointed and the full Master Plan is expected to be completed in 2020.

As you would be aware, following referral of petition 29-19 and 32-19, the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal (the Committee) has resolved to conduct an inquiry into the planning for the SPIRE Project, the Canberra Hospital Campus and the immediate surrounds. The ACT Government will put forward a Submission to this Inquiry for the Committee's consideration which provides a more detailed response to the concerns set out in the above petitions. The Submission will be available via the Legislative Assembly website at <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au>.

Thank you for raising these matters and I hope this information is useful.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

24 FEB 2020