



*The NSW Government is investing \$180 million in the Lower Mid North Coast Health Service Project, bringing together the Manning Base Hospital Redevelopment Stage 2 and Forster-Tuncurry health facility projects.*



*Retired nurses who started their career at Manning Base Hospital returned recently to bid farewell to the old nurses' quarters that will be making way for a new inpatient unit. Reunion guests, many of whom started their training in the 1950s and '60s, shared old photographs and memories from a time when people would travel from all parts to train at Manning Hospital.*



## We have a builder and we're ready to start work

Things are moving quickly to deliver the second stage of our hospital redevelopment.

In recent days, builder AW Edwards has been appointed to demolish the administration building, mortuary and old fever ward, as well as relocate two bulk oxygen tanks. This work is expected to start on site shortly.

Ahead of demolition, staff will be moving out of the administration building to either the former community health offices on campus or the Taree Universities Campus building on nearby Pulteney Street.

Once the site has been cleared, a main works builder will be appointed to deliver contemporary clinical spaces.

Construction timeframes for main works will be confirmed after planning has been finalised and a building contractor appointed.



*An artist's impression of what the new inpatient unit will look like.*

## Connecting with Country resumes

The Connecting with Country Working Group has resumed regular meetings for the project.

The group, comprising representatives of the Biripi and Worimi People, meets to ensure the redevelopment is culturally respectful, provides connections to nature and natural light, and reflects the diversity of the community.

Previous feedback provided by the working group, and other forums, is reflected in the current designs for the Stage 2 redevelopment of the hospital.

The group is currently planning a cleansing ceremony to mark demolition of the old fever ward.



*Kaylee Melville (left) and Ann Reid, from the Community Health Intake Team, had the honour of*

*being among the first to move to new premises in Pulteney Street.*

## Fred has found a new home



Fred, the Water Dragon, has been a minor celebrity around the hospital grounds for quite a few years now.

In case you were wondering why you hadn't seen him around lately, it's because he's been moved to a new home as part of preparing for demolition of the administration building.

A professional reptile handler was engaged to move Fred to a nearby dam where there are many other Water Dragons. We are told he's really enjoying his new home and is making lots of new friends.

**For more information:**

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