

Frequently Asked Questions

Project overview

What is the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital project?

The Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital project is one of the largest regional health projects currently underway in NSW and Victoria, delivering a major new hospital and improved health services for Albury, Wodonga and border communities.

How much is being invested in the project?

In October 2022, the NSW and Victorian governments announced a joint funding commitment to redevelop the Albury Hospital campus, with NSW and Victoria each committing \$225 million to the project.

This was in addition to the \$108 million already committed by the NSW and Australian governments, bringing the total project investment to \$558 million.

What is being delivered within the scope of the \$558 million?

The project will deliver a new, multi-storey clinical services building and upgrades to existing facilities at the Albury Hospital campus. The project scope will continue to be confirmed through the planning and design process, and is expected to include:

- more medical and surgical beds
- new operating theatres
- expansion of outpatient and specialist treatment spaces
- a new Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
- relocation of maternity and newborn services
- a new children's ward
- contemporary new adult acute mental health inpatient unit to replace Nolan House
- more car parking, including a multi-storey carpark
- a new helipad.

Why are we building on the Albury Hospital campus?

Investing in a major new build on the Albury Hospital campus is more sustainable, delivers better value for money and allows us to deliver the project sooner.

It also means we can build upon recent investments made to infrastructure and services at the Albury Hospital campus, allowing the hospital to fulfill its role as a regional health hub.

These investments include:

- the \$75 million Albury Wodonga Regional Cancer Centre that brings together a comprehensive set of specialised cancer services under the one roof
- the soon to be completed \$36 million new Emergency Department and Short Stay Unit that will become operational in early 2024
- the University of NSW Rural School of Clinical Medicine which brings world-class medical education to the Albury Hospital campus
- the Hilltop Albury Wodonga Patient and Carer Accommodation facility that provides patients and their families with a home away from home when receiving treatment
- additional Negative Pressure Rooms that are planned as part of the Victorian Government's Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

How has the scope of the project been determined?

The project scope has been informed by the planning recommendations of the Albury Wodonga Health Clinical Services Plan.

Who is delivering the project?

The project is a joint funding commitment between the NSW, Victorian and Australia governments. Health Infrastructure is delivering the project in partnership with the Victorian Department of Health and Albury Wodonga Health.

When does construction start?

Early construction works are expected to start in 2024. There will be a detailed plan in place for construction to ensure patients, visitors and staff can access the hospital and its services during the construction period.

When will the project be complete?

The project is expected to be complete by 2027/28.

Master planning

What phase is the redevelopment at?

Building a new hospital involves three key phases – planning, design and delivery. The project has reached a significant milestone in the planning phase with the master plan released in October 2023.

What is the master plan and why is it important?

Master planning is an important first step in the hospital planning process. The master plan sets out the vision and high-level framework for development at the Albury Hospital campus in the immediate term as part of the \$558 million project budget, and lays the groundwork for future expansion of the campus through infrastructure, development and partnership opportunities over the coming decades.

The master plan prioritises the expansion and enhancement of clinical and non-clinical services, addresses immediate and long-term planning goals, builds upon recent investments made to clinical services and infrastructure at Albury, enables sustainability and delivers a better-connected health care environment for the community.

How has the master plan been developed?

The master plan has been developed by Health Infrastructure, the Victorian Department of Health and Albury Wodonga Health with input from a broad range of stakeholders including staff, senior clinicians, local councils, NSW and Victorian government agencies, clinical planning specialists and architects, as well as community feedback collected during consultation earlier this year.

Through regular consultation and workshops, the project team developed, assessed and refined a long list of master planning options.

The master plan reflects the best approach to maximising existing infrastructure on the Albury Hospital campus, creating key clinical and other connections between new and existing facilities, and sets the campus up for long-term investment.

Was the 2021 Albury Wodonga Hospital Draft Master Plan considered as part of master planning?

Prior planning for an Albury Hospital campus was undertaken by Albury Wodonga Health with a master plan drafted in 2021. This master plan was not approved by Government, and it did not progress to feasibility.

In October 2022 the NSW, Victorian and Australian governments committed \$558 million to the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital project.

Health Infrastructure appointed a project team in early 2023. As part of the early planning process, considerable time was taken to review previous site reports, including the 2021 Albury Wodonga Health Draft Master Plan.

What are the objectives of the master plan?

The master plan has been designed to:

- support the hospital expansion now and into the future, as demand for health care changes over time.
- deliver a strategic and orderly approach to consolidating services onto a single site in line with the \$558 million project budget.
- build upon recent investments made to clinical services and infrastructure at the Albury Hospital campus.
- provide a flexible framework for future growth of the campus through infrastructure, development and partnership opportunities that can be enabled over the coming decades.
- ensure a development pathway that supports operational continuity to minimise disruptions to day-to-day hospital operations.

What are the key features of the master plan?

The key features of the master plan include:

- a new multi-storey clinical services building.
- a new hospital main entrance and public drop-off zone from Keene Street.
- targeted refurbishment of existing buildings.
- improved landscaping, pedestrian links, wayfinding and connectivity throughout the campus.
- a new multi-storey car park and better designed car parking spaces to increase parking capacity on site and improve access for staff, patients and visitors.

Has the master plan considered future expansion beyond the redevelopment?

Yes. The master plan provides an opportunity for future expansion zones to the north and west of the new clinical services building at the Albury Hospital campus. This will allow future infrastructure, development and partnership opportunities to be explored to meet the growing needs of the community over the coming decades.

How does the master plan address clinical service planning and priorities?

The master plan addresses the strategic objectives of Albury Wodonga Health and the region to:

- respond to the clinical services planning recommendations of the Albury Wodonga Clinical Services Plan to address growth in services.
- enable Albury Wodonga Health to provide safe, efficient and effective care in a contemporary environment, allowing the community access to care that is closer to home with trust and confidence.
- create a welcoming, people-centred and culturally safe environment with improved amenity and access

to enhance the experience of patients, visitors and staff.

- enable the hospital to fulfill its role as a regional health hub.
- improve patient safety, reducing the duplication of services and travel between two hospital campuses which will increase the capability and responsiveness of the health service.

Will bed numbers increase?

Yes. The project will deliver an increase in bed numbers and clinical service capacity. The project scope, including bed numbers, will be determined through further planning and design.

Does master planning include options for a greenfield site?

No. The project is funded as a major new hospital redevelopment on the existing Albury Hospital campus. There are no plans to consider another site.

Didn't the Clinical Services Plan recommend a greenfield site?

The Albury Wodonga Health Clinical Services Plan highlighted the need for a single-site regional hospital. It did not specify whether this would be on a greenfield site or an existing site. The new hospital can be delivered sooner and more sustainably on the Albury Hospital campus.

Does the master plan address car parking at the Albury Hospital campus?

Yes. More car parking will be provided due to the uplift in services being delivered. Further detailed planning will determine car parking numbers in accordance with statutory planning requirements.

What site studies have been undertaken for the Albury site?

As part of the early planning process and due diligence activities for the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital project, a review of the Albury campus site was undertaken. Site investigations including an assessment of ground conditions were completed to ensure the site is suitable. This information helped inform the master plan for the redevelopment.

Further detailed geotechnical and site investigations will be carried out as part of the design phase to inform groundwork and building foundation design of the new clinical services building.

What will happen to Wodonga Hospital?

Wodonga Hospital remains vital to the future health care plans of Albury Wodonga Health.

Albury Wodonga Health and the Victorian Department of Health are in the early stages of developing an Entity Service Plan for Wodonga Hospital. The Entity Service Plan considers the master plan for the Albury Hospital campus, and will determine the type and scale of services that will operate from Wodonga. The Entity Service Plan process will involve consultation with the community and is due to be complete in 2024.

Is the redevelopment just a renovation?

No. The project will deliver a substantial new regional hospital on the Albury Hospital campus, with a focus on design excellence, patient and staff experience, and clinical safety.

The scale of the redevelopment offers the opportunity to expand and enhance a range of clinical and non-clinical services, bring clinical services and expertise onto a single hospital campus, and enhance connections to existing facilities where they are retained.

Consultation and next steps

How are stakeholders and the community involved in the project?

Designing and building a hospital is a complex process that involves extensive consultation with staff, health care professionals, patients, key stakeholders and the community to ensure the right clinical needs are met.

Consultation with staff, community and a broad range of stakeholders is essential to the hospital planning, design and delivery process and this will continue throughout the duration of the project. We will continue to keep the community informed and updated on consultation opportunities.

What are the next steps in the project?

Following completion of the master plan and consultation, further detailed planning and design will be undertaken during 2024. Feedback on the master plan will help inform the concept design which is the next stage of planning and design for the project. The concept design is followed by the schematic and detailed designs, and preparing to submit the State Significant Development Application (SSDA).

Contact us

To register your interest in receiving regular project updates, visit:
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