



New Mount Barker Hospital Development

FAQ

Why is a new hospital needed in Mount Barker?

A new hospital is needed to provide modern health services for the 80,000 people who live in the Mount Barker and Adelaide Hills region. As the region is growing, with a projected population increase of more than 30% over the next 15 years, the new hospital will support the region's growing population, provide care closer to home and reduce the need for transfers to metropolitan hospitals.

How was the site for the new hospital chosen?

The New Mount Barker Hospital will be located on the site of the existing Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital at 87 Wellington Road, Mount Barker. This site was chosen by the South Australian Government following a Rapid Site Assessment as the most appropriate location for the new hospital. This was based on the cost of delivery and co-location with existing hospital infrastructure such as the new Emergency Department, which opened in June 2023.

Who will be able to use the new hospital?

Anyone can use the new hospital however its main purpose is to provide health services for one of South Australia's fastest growing regional populations and those living in Mount Barker and the wider Adelaide Hills.

How does the new hospital interact with metropolitan hospitals?

The South Australian Government's investment in a New Mount Barker Hospital will have benefits to the entire South Australian health system, reducing demand pressures on, and transfers to, the major metropolitan hospitals as more of our community are cared for closer to home.

What will the new hospital cost?

The State Government has committed \$320.8 million to build the New Mount Barker Hospital.

How many beds will be in the new hospital?

The New Mount Barker Hospital will have 102-beds. This is triple the current inpatient capacity of the 34-bed Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

These beds will be supported by new and expanded operating theatres, allied health and outpatient consulting rooms, therapy gymnasiums, renal dialysis and chemotherapy chairs, and clinical support services such as pathology and pharmacy services.

What health services will be delivered in the new hospital?

The New Mount Barker Hospital will deliver an expanded range of whole of life health services to our community, supported by the enhanced capacity and clinical capability of the new hospital.

Services to be delivered from the new hospital include obstetrics, paediatric care, surgical care, medical care, rehabilitation, mental health care, palliative care, Aboriginal health services, renal dialysis, and chemotherapy.

What are the key features of the New Mount Barker Hospital?

The New Mount Barker Hospital includes the following key features:

- Frontage and entry from Wellington Street
- Retention of some existing hospital buildings including Imaging and Emergency Department
- A Mental Health unit with accessibility to external garden spaces
- Integrated pedestrian pathways and landscaping
- Connection and reduced impacts to Duck Flat Community Garden
- Green spaces including nature views and therapeutic gardens
- Communal spaces including central courtyard and café
- Multi-level carparking and ease of access from Wellington Road

What are the environmental features of the new hospital?

There will be a strong emphasis on sustainable design. The New Mount Barker Hospital is being designed to be South Australia's first all-electric hospital. The hospital will be connected to both the grid and on-site electricity generation capability, rather than having any requirement for the gas network. This means the heating, hot water and kitchen functions within the new building will not be powered by fossil fuels and is in line with the pathway to net zero emissions.

The New Mount Barker Hospital has also been planned to protect existing vegetation and the Duck Flat Community Garden. This will maximise the views of green spaces and provide therapeutic landscaped gardens to assist with patient recovery and visitor relaxation.

Who will operate the New Mount Barker Hospital?

The Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network is responsible for delivering the new hospital in partnership with The Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and The Department for Health and Wellbeing. Once built, the New Mount Barker Hospital will be operated by the Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network.

Will the existing hospital close before the new hospital is built?

No, current hospital and health services will continue to be provided at the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital during construction of the new hospital. Construction works will be staged to prevent disruption to local health services, with some services relocated to other locations in Mount Barker during the build.

Will the history of the hospital be recognised?

The Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital was built in 1919 as a memorial to members of the Australian Imperial Forces who enlisted for active service from the Mount Barker district during the Great War 1914–1918.

Whilst the Planning and Design Code does not reflect that the current hospital has local heritage significance, we value the long and significant history of the existing hospital and are engaging the Veteran's community, the Veteran's Health Advisory Council and our Consumer and Community Reference Group to understand how the new hospital design can acknowledge and showcase the history of the existing hospital and its important contribution to the community since it opened in 1919.

Will the name of the hospital change?

The name of the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital holds significant value to both the Mount Barker Community and our veterans. The name of the New Mount Barker Hospital will continue to honour the sacrifice of our Veterans as a Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

What stage is the project currently at?

The project is currently in the planning and consultation stage. A range of technical and design investigations have been undertaken, the site has been selected, extensive community, consumer and clinical consultation is being undertaken, and the design team has prepared initial designs for the New Mount Barker Hospital.

How have clinicians been engaged in the design of the new hospital?

The New Mount Barker Hospital will be delivered in partnership with Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network's clinical workforce. The project team has and continue to undertake extensive clinical consultation in the design and planning of the new hospital, including engagement with statewide subject matter experts, clinical partners and Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network clinical teams. This includes our doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. We continue to facilitate 'Project User Group' meetings with our clinical teams where targeted workshops are focused on clinical department planning and specific operational and clinical requirements within the new hospital.

How are the community and people with lived hospital experience being engaged in the design of the hospital?

Community input into the new hospital is an integral part of the engagement process being undertaken by Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network. The project team involves the community in a number of ways including the Community and Consumer Reference Group which exists to provide an opportunity for community feedback and input into the hospital planning and to share community priorities and concerns. The project team has attended local community events including country shows and has activated information displays at a number of libraries in partnership with local Councils across the Adelaide Hills and surrounding districts. In addition, targeted engagement continues with key interest groups, local residents and community members with lived experience including mental health and palliative care.

How are First Nations People been engaged in the design of the new hospital?

The new hospital site is located on the traditional lands of the Peramangk People whose rich history, culture and People we acknowledge and respect, and which has an important focus in the planning and design of the new hospital. The project team undertakes the traditional practice of Yarning Circles with First Nations and Peramangk People to provide an opportunity for deep listening and sharing about how we can make the new hospital and dedicated Aboriginal Health unit a culturally safe place for the Aboriginal Community.

Where can I view the initial new Mount Barker Hospital designs?

The initial concept designs for the New Mount Barker Hospital are available online. Please scan the QR code below to access the website. The designs have been prepared by the design team in consultation with the local community, consumers and key clinical partners. The design concepts are artist impressions only. More detailed designs will be produced and made available for public comment as part of the Development Application process.

When will detailed designs be available?

Detailed designs will be produced, and a Development Application prepared and lodged for assessment by the State Planning Commission. The Development Application addresses a wide range of design aspects including issues such as shadowing and privacy for residents living near the site. Approval of the Development Application is required before construction can commence. The detailed designs will be made publicly available during the statutory notification of the development.

Can I have a say on the Development Application?

Yes, public notification of the Development Application will likely occur in late 2024. You will be able to provide your feedback on the Development Application directly to the State Planning Commission.

Will there be a helipad at the new hospital?

The helipad at the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital was decommissioned in the beginning of 2022. This occurred due to both the construction of the Emergency Department and the helipad not meeting heightened regulatory requirements by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.

The operational approach since that time (and generally in practice prior to its decommissioning) is that South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS) / Medstar undertake retrievals by road supporting a faster escalation of care to a metropolitan hospital. This approach is reinforced by the South Australian Government's ongoing investment in additional SAAS crews and a new ambulance station in Mount Barker. In the unlikely event a helicopter should be required to undertake a retrieval from the hospital, this can occur via the helicopter landing at Dunn Oval.

Will the Duck Flat Community Garden be retained?

The New Mount Barker Hospital Development seeks to uphold the original vision of the Duck Flat Community Garden – a peaceful and dynamic place where people from diverse backgrounds come together and work as a community for a broader benefit. The New Mount Barker Hospital will see that patients, carers and the workforce have direct access to the Duck Flat Community Garden and that the new hospital design maximises views of the Duck Flat Community Garden from patient beds and workspaces.

The design of the New Mount Barker Hospital has made significant effort to reduce impacts on surrounding vegetation and trees, including alignment of the building footprint to minimise impacts on the Duck Flat Community Garden. The project and design team has been engaging the garden committee and volunteers and will continue to consult and work together with them.

Access to Duck Flat Community Garden will be available via the hospital through the new central courtyard / clinical building. Access via Deer Avenue will also be maintained.

What is being done about Wellington Road traffic and access?

The project team is aware of the current challenges associated with Wellington Road and is working to see the new hospital does not exacerbate access and traffic issues along the road and entry/exit to the hospital.

A traffic consultant has been engaged to provide traffic advice to the design team in consultation with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport. The redevelopment will incorporate the necessary updates to the hospital's frontage to Wellington Road including suitable traffic and pedestrian access, the provision of dedicated pedestrian pathways, additional car parking, reconfigured vehicle access and a dedicated off-road bus stop to alleviate traffic pressures on Wellington Road. This will support entry and exit to the hospital site.

More broadly, Wellington Road is a responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure and Transport, and outside of the projects direct control, however Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network is working with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport to advocate for investment in improving this road.

Will car parking be provided?

Yes, the initial design for the new hospital includes a multi-level car parking which will be accessible from Wellington Road. The new car park will provide adequate car parking to patients, carers and workforce when accessing the hospital and associated health services delivered at the site. Total car park numbers are being established to meet planning requirements and to allow adequate provision of vehicle parking at the site.

Has a builder been appointed yet?

A builder or 'Managing Contractor' for the new Mount Barker Hospital is expected to be announced in mid-2024. The project team is working to procure a Managing Contractor with significant experience in building around operational health services so health service delivery will not be compromised during the construction of the new hospital.

When will construction start?

Early construction works for the new hospital are expected to commence in late 2024. An enabling works Development Application has now been lodged and includes a series of temporary buildings and structures, additional car parking and sewer alterations as well as removal of the decommissioned helipad.

Before construction on the new hospital can begin, detailed designs need to be finalised and a main works Development Application submitted to the State Planning Commission for assessment. This Development Application will be publicly notified and available for viewing on the PlanSA website.

What impact will construction have on local trees?

The new hospital is being designed to reduce the impact on surrounding vegetation and trees. Although some existing trees will need to be removed to allow its construction, additional trees will be introduced to maintain overall tree coverage with a significant proportion of new trees being native species to maintain local habitat.

How will construction impacts be mitigated and managed?

Construction impacts such as noise, dust and traffic will be carefully managed by the Managing Contractor in close collaboration with Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network to minimise impacts to consumers, workforce and the community. A staged construction methodology is being developed to maintain the safety and quality of our services while construction progresses at the site.

How will local industry help support the project?

We understand the value and importance of supporting local industry in the construction of the New Mount Barker Hospital and are committed to engaging local businesses and using local materials and suppliers where possible. Using local construction materials has various benefits, such as reducing transportation costs, supporting the local economy and minimising environmental impact as well as providing broader project benefits to our communities.

What are the plans for workforce recruitment to staff the new hospital?

Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network is currently undertaking workforce planning to support recruitment and staffing as expanded services come online. There will be a range of positions on offer for dedicated healthcare professionals to join the new hospital team delivering essential services to support the healthcare needs of the growing population of Mount Barker and surrounding communities.

We will look to commence recruitment in 2027, including for Nursing and Midwifery staff, Medical Practitioners, Allied Health Professionals, Aboriginal Health Practitioners and administrative, general services and facilities management staff. Further information will be shared as the recruitment process commences.

How can I receive updates or provide feedback on the project?

You can register to receive regular updates or give feedback on the New Mount Barker Hospital Development by emailing Health.NMBH@sa.gov.au.

Can I speak with someone about the project?

Yes, you can talk to members of our project team by calling 1300 317 447.



Scan the QR Code to
visit our website

Share your feedback and register for regular project updates by:

- **emailing us at** Health.NMBH@sa.gov.au
- **calling us on** 1300 317 447



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