

New Bundaberg Hospital

Delivering a culturally safe and welcoming facility for all

The new Bundaberg Hospital will serve all communities including the local First Nations Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng, Taribelang Bunda People and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the Wide Bay Hospital and Health (WBHHS) service district. It is important that all communities who use the new hospital feel culturally welcome, safe and able to access compassionate and equitable care.

The new Bundaberg Hospital project team would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who shares their views and contributes to the project.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation

The new Bundaberg Hospital project team recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as important stakeholders in the design and build of the new hospital.

To date the project team has undertaken consultation with a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and stakeholders. Activities have included:



presentation and discussions with several Traditional Owners in May this year



activities to inform a Cultural Heritage Management Agreement for the project



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on design Project User Groups



presentations and discussions with WBHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advisory Council members in 2020 and 2023



community and staff surveys in 2020 and 2022



pop-up community consultation sessions at the hospital, library and shopping centres in 2020



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the Stakeholder Reference Group during the business case phase.



Models of care and health service delivery

We're committed to ensuring First Nations consumers and community are consulted as part of the design and review of models of care, as outlined in the WBHHS First Nations Health Equity Strategy 2022-2025.

Curves to soften design

The design team is guided by the Australasian Health Facility Guidelines, which support the delivery of optimal patient care through best-practice design. Examples of where there is flexibility to incorporate curves include around the public lifts, main entry foyer, and select joinery and floor features.

Culturally safe spaces

The new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit includes a new 'Social and Emotional Wellbeing Space' where mob gathering can comfortably wait with tea/coffee facilities, away from the busy hospital ward.

Stronger visual presence

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit will be located on the ground floor close to the main entrance.

Statements of recognition

Flags, artwork and acknowledgement plaques are important considerations in the design to ensure we create a culturally welcoming environment.

Use of local language

The project presents many opportunities to incorporate language, including through wayfinding and signage, as a sign of welcome to people from all nations.

Warm and welcoming colour palette

A warmer colour palette is proposed, which is inspired by the surrounding natural beauty and environment of the new hospital site.

Sorry Business

The mortuary will include a waiting area / viewing room for relatives and others to gather for private discussions. There will also be direct access to a small, semi-private outdoor landscaped courtyard, providing a special place for quiet reflection.

Artwork

The project presents opportunities to incorporate symbols of welcome, wayfinding, creating connection with storytelling, landscape and Aboriginal and cultural heritage. There is also opportunity to commission local First Nations artists or art groups across the region.

Outdoor gathering spaces

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit includes an outdoor garden to promote healing and connection to culture and country. There will also be a landscaped area, accessible to all, for larger cultural ceremonies such as NAIDOC Week.

Visual connection to the outdoors from the emergency department (ED) waiting room

The ED waiting room will have visual connection to the outdoors. There will also be a landscaped outdoor area where consumers can take a break outside to get fresh air, if needed.

What Community has told us is important, and what we're doing

Land management and plant selection

Softly integrating the new landscape into the existing bushland with natural stormwater management systems will respect the ecological history of the site and create a space that is special.



2024

2025

2026

2027

Design

Landscape and natural surrounds

Design and storytelling

Artwork, signage and language

Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Officers and Cultural Heritage Committee

Apprenticeships and traineeships

Construction

Indigenous business and employment opportunities

Land maintenance

Health Service Delivery

Models of Care and Service Delivery

Consumer journey and referral pathways

Hospital design functionality

Workforce recruitment opportunities

Design and Storytelling

Our designers utilise Queensland Health's First Nations Design Guideline to contribute to a better understanding of, and better support for, a strong, healthy, vibrant, and thriving First Nations culture in our built environment. This approach aims to create social, health, economic, and environmental benefit, that in turn supports the health and wellbeing of Country and community.

The design for the new Bundaberg Hospital aims to embody both the natural environment and those connections to the land that have been passed down for generations.

The **'Stories of the Land'** concept centres around three elemental themes:



water

binding the town,
symbolises future growth
and connectivity



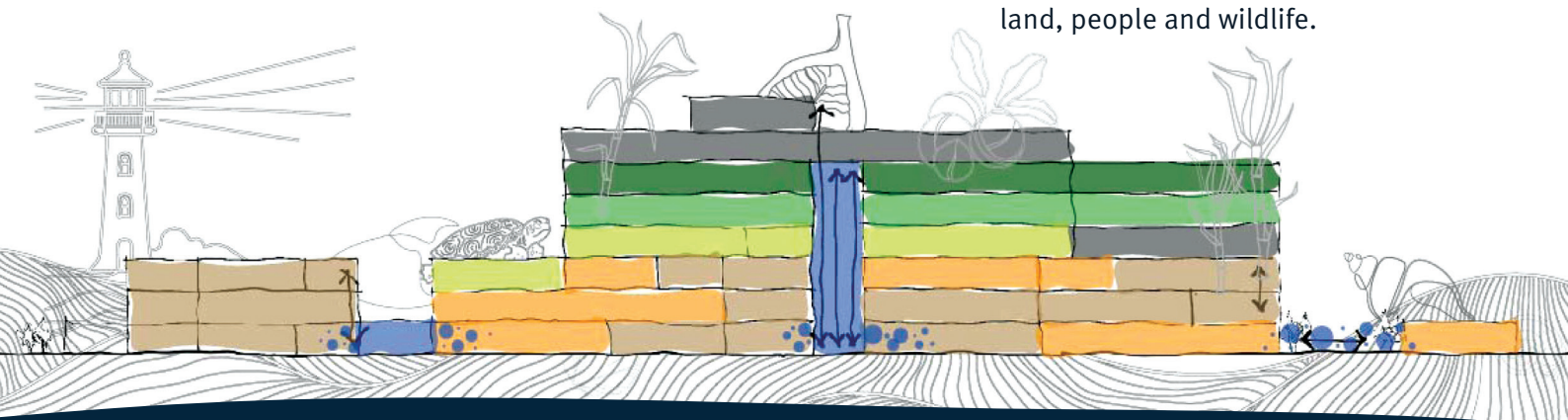
geology

grounding textures
evoke a sense of solidity,
fostering a connection
back to Country



land

the patchwork of agricultural
activity and Aboriginal and Torres
Strait landscapes showcasing
the interconnectedness between
land, people and wildlife.



Landscaping

A new native landscape will be integrated into the surrounding existing bushland and will respect the ecological history of the site and create a space that is special – where patients, visitors and staff can look across an established landscape that feathers into a more designed environment.

Employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers

The project will provide significant opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment, apprenticeships and training, both in a construction and health sense. This will be an ongoing area of focus as the project progresses.



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For more information about the project and to sign up to get the latest news, announcements and project updates delivered straight to your inbox, visit:

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Wide Bay
Hospital and
Health Service

