

Ensuring safety – Helicopter Landing Site Temporary Relocation

As part of the NSW Government's \$750 million investment in the new RPA Hospital Redevelopment, the hospital's helicopter landing site is being temporarily relocated.

Operating from early 2024, the temporary helipad will be located on the roof of the multi-storey carpark located off Hospital Road and Grose Street, south of the Queen Mary Building. The temporary helipad relocation is expected to be needed for up to 24 months.

RPA Heli-transfers

The continued operation of a Helicopter Landing Site during the RPA redevelopment is crucial to RPA's role as a tertiary and quaternary referral hospital providing life-saving specialised ICU, Surgical and Interventional care to patients from the Sydney Metropolitan area and other parts of NSW, especially Western NSW.

Transfer to RPA by helicopter is the safest transport method for patients referred to RPA for time-critical care including specialised cardio-thoracic support, complex levels of intensive care and the advanced surgical and interventional treatment available at RPA. The rapid transfer of newborn babies requiring Neonatal Intensive care (NICU) is another important reason for maintaining access to RPA by the NETS helicopter service.

As the NSW centre for liver transplantation, one of the largest obstetric and NICU services and a major referral centre for cardio-thoracic, neurosurgical, orthopaedic, renal transplantation and advanced gastrointestinal surgery, RPA needs to retain the capacity to receive patients for whom transfer by helicopter provides the safest and most effective option.

Temporary Helipad Relocation

The helipad at RPA Hospital is being temporarily relocated due to the planned redevelopment of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital's (RPA) east campus. The redevelopment of the RPA east campus requires the installation and use of construction tower cranes. These tall cranes will unfortunately limit safe access to the existing landing site making the relocation of the helipad a necessity. The relocation will ensure the safety of patients, staff, locals, and construction workers

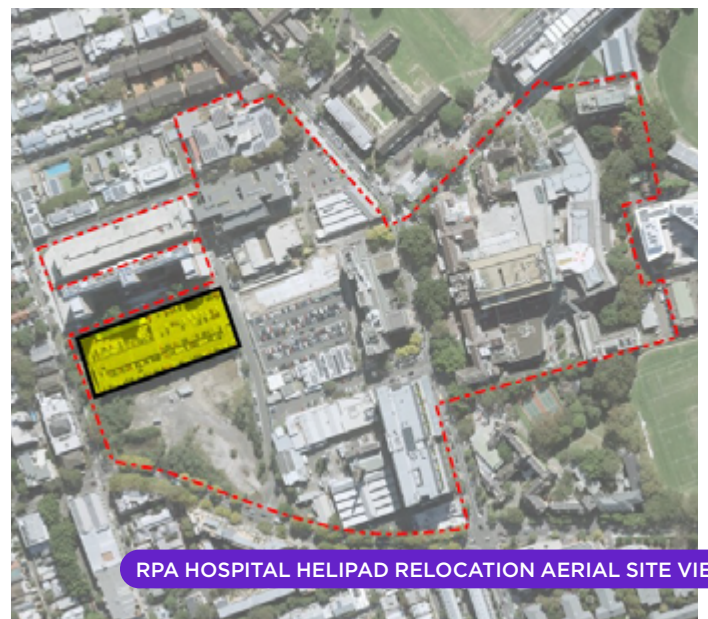
The helipad will be temporarily relocated to the roof of the multi-storey carpark located off Hospital Road and Grose Street, to the south of the Queen Mary Building. The temporary site will serve as the sole working helipad at RPA for the time that the tower cranes are in place for the construction of the new health facility. The cranes are

expected to be required for up to 24 months, beginning when the construction tower cranes are built.

The first stage of planning for the helipad relocation was deciding on the new, temporary site. Health Infrastructure worked closely with representatives from the Sydney Local Health District, NSW Ambulance and Avipro (Aviation Management and Safety Advisors) to ensure the proposed relocation site was safe, appropriate, fit-for-purpose and caused minimal impact on local community and environment.

Due to the relocation of the helipad, car spaces will be closed on the top floor of the car park. Active management will be in place across the RPA campus to ensure ease of access for those driving to the site through the period of construction of the RPA Redevelopment.

Due to the extensive consultation and strategic planning that has gone into the planned relocation, RPA hospital can continue their mission of world-class delivery of patient care with the support of the temporary helipad.



Based on previous activity, there will be about 10 landings each month. Nearby residents are likely to experience some noise associated with helicopter transport of patients and landings at times. As these flights are often critical responses to emergency situations, landings can take place at any time during the day or night.

Establishing the temporary helipad will require early works to begin on the site by mid-2023. Early works will see removal of any obstacles, structural works on top of the car park and installation of lights and a patient transfer elevator. These works are expected to be complete, and the site to be operational by early 2024.

Listening to our stakeholders

Stakeholder engagement and community consultation plays a critical role in ensuring the helipad relocation plans are considered. Consultation during this phase is vital to ensure that the relocation plan is heading in the right direction, providing a means for adjustments to be made to ensure quality and valued outcomes are delivered that meet stakeholder and operational needs.

Engaging with key hospital staff, patients, business owners, residents and other critical stakeholders throughout the planning and delivery of the temporary helipad relocation allows our valued stakeholders and local community to remain informed and part of the conversation from start to finish.

Next Steps

Following completion of the public exhibition period:

- Health Infrastructure will review all the community and government agency submissions received by the Department of Planning and Environment and will produce a Response to Submissions Report. This report is provided back to Department of Planning and Environment and will be considered as part of the overall review of the applications.

- The Department of Planning and Environment will assess the State Significant Development Application and consider all community and government agency submissions.
- The Department of Planning and Environment will make a recommendation to the Minister for Planning after reviewing the application, community and government agency submissions and the Response to Submissions Report.
- The Minister for Planning (or delegate) will then determine the application, including applying consent conditions that must be adhered to for the detailed design, construction and commissioning of the new facility.
- Main construction works are expected to start in early 2023 once planning approvals are in place and consent conditions satisfied.

Key Milestones



The NSW Government has committed \$750 million to the redevelopment of Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital to deliver a new hospital building and refurbishment of existing spaces.

This is the most significant investment in RPA's 140-year history to support the world-leading services provided at RPA for the 700,000 people who live in Sydney Local Health District and the more than 1 million people who come into the District each day to work, study and visit.

When complete, the RPA Redevelopment will deliver:

- Expanded and enhanced Emergency Department and Intensive Care Units
- State-of-the-art operating theatres

- Expanded and improved adult inpatient accommodation
- Increased interventional and imaging services
- Expanded neonatology services
- Facilities and capabilities for integrated research, education and training
- Additional adult inpatient beds
- Improved public domain and services including roads, wayfinding, landscaping and information and communications technology infrastructure.

How can I contact the project team?

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact our project team at the details below.

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