

## Enabling works gets underway

The Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital Redevelopment celebrated the commencement of enabling works on November 7, announcing Indigenous construction company Barpa as the contractor. Barpa prides themselves on respectful Indigenous engagement and strives to make a positive difference for Australia's First Peoples.

An exciting milestone for the \$750 million redevelopment of RPA, the Integrated Project Team leaders from RPA, Health Infrastructure and the Sydney Local Health District came together to mark the announcement alongside representative from Barpa and the NSW Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council representatives.

**“Together, we are really excited to welcome Indigenous construction company Barpa to the team, to deliver the enabling works for what will be the most significant redevelopment in RPA’s 140-year history,” Steve Hall, Senior Project Director for Health Infrastructure.**

### Smoking Ceremony

Uncle Brendan Kerin from the NSW Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council led proceedings with a distinctly personal Welcome to Country. Sharing a small part of his own story and ongoing journey in connecting with Country and culture, Uncle Brendan welcomed all in attendance to Gadigal and Wangal Country upon which RPA Hospital operates.

Following the announcement of Barpa's appointment, Uncle Brendan conducted a traditional smoking ceremony in preparation for the commencement of enabling works.

Traditional smoking ceremonies have been performed by Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years as a way to cleanse and connect with the land, and ward off bad spirits.

**“A smoking ceremony is a cleansing ceremony, it prepares the path for us to move forward.” Uncle Brendan Kerin, NSW Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council.**

### Giving thanks

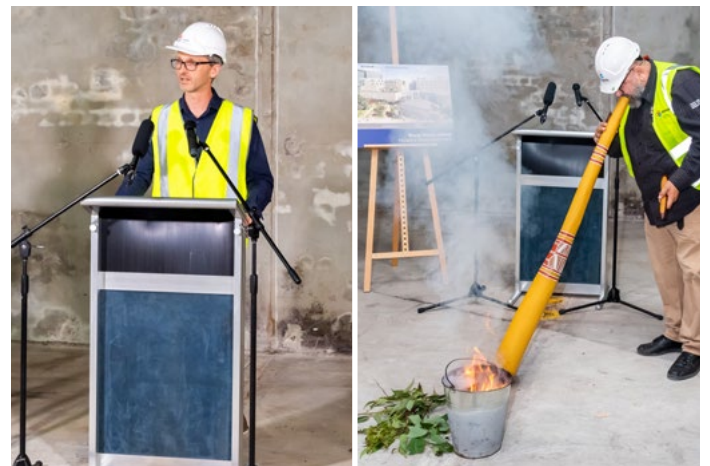
Health Infrastructure and the Sydney Local Health District would like to thank all distinguished guests and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who joined to celebrate the beginning of enabling works and extend special thanks to Uncle Brendan Kerin for leading the ceremony and cleansing the space.

### Scope of enabling works

The enabling works include:

- Site preparation including establishing a site compound
- Work to improve traffic movement especially for large construction vehicles
- Vegetation removal and pruning to allow for large construction vehicles and site equipment
- Relocating hospital services to allow for those areas to be refurbished and upgraded through the main construction works.

**Enabling works are expected to be complete by mid-2023**



## 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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