








# Integrating landscape design

The NSW Government has committed \$940 million to the redevelopment of Royal Prince Alfred (RPA) Hospital which is the most significant investment in RPA's 140-year history.

When complete, the RPA Redevelopment will deliver:

 <p>Expanded and enhanced Emergency Department and Intensive Care Units</p>	 <p>Expanded neonatology services</p>
 <p>State-of-the-art operating theatres</p>	 <p>Improved public domain and services including roads, wayfinding, landscaping and information and communications technology infrastructure</p>
 <p>Expanded and improved adult inpatient ward accommodation</p>	 <p>A new open garden courtyard</p>
 <p>Increased interventional and imaging services</p>	

## The plan for planting

The planting strategy has been thoughtfully considered to respect heritage, Connect with Country, replace significant planting impacted by the hospital expansion, and maximise tree canopy where appropriate. Tree species have been collaboratively chosen by members of the design team with advice from heritage and arborist consultants.

A key project commitment is developing high-quality landscape outcomes to promote wellness, support recovery and harness the healing power of nature throughout the reimagined spaces. Landscaping has been shown to have a considerable positive impact on the wellbeing of staff and patient recovery rates, reducing the extent of time and medication required when patients are in hospital.

The landscaping and open spaces have been designed with consideration of the needs of hospital patients, visitors and staff, and community. Providing functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces that have a high level of amenity, the proposed landscaping plan aims to enhance existing precincts, embellish open space with green landscaping and create additional green spaces.

## The Northern Arrival

The significant and valued trees at the front of the hospital along Missenden Road will be maintained and the maternity entrance off John Hopkins Drive will be reimagined into a new 'Northern Arrival', which will include new landscaping and tree planting to create a welcoming entrance.



The Northern Arrival provides an immersive native forest landscape breakout from the building with Cabbage Tree Palms and sandstone seating boulders; an outdoor and inclusive gathering place immersed in a natural setting, connected to Country through materials, plant selection, and Indigenous art integration as a key feature of the entry experience.

The existing Indigenous Garden will be reimagined, and generous new trees and plantings will create a welcoming arrival experience. Plant species are primarily of the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest community and include plants used for traditional medicinal and ceremonial uses.

## Central courtyard

Internal landscaped spaces will provide connection to nature and support recovery, providing respite from the clinical environment. Planned sunken gardens and a central courtyard will provide a calm retreat, with greenery and fresh air for staff, patients and visitors.

The trees and planting in the new central courtyard are inspired by the rear garden and will include a mix of native and exotic plants. Species have been selected to complement the environment and growing conditions, as well as size considerations to allow light into adjacent windows.

## Sunken gardens

The sunken gardens are designed to maximise greenery for hospital users to connect with nature. Vertical greenery stretches up the eastern facades toward the courtyard above.

The sunken garden will be a dedicated space to sit, reflect, unwind and be immersed in nature. Set beneath the building overhang for weather protection, there will be greenery and feature potted plants to create a pleasant and cool environment.

## Eastern gardens

Gloucester House lawn and the significant jacaranda tree will be retained to form part of the heritage Rear Gardens. The Rear Gardens legacy will be celebrated through a reimagined planting strategy that will introduce both native and exotic tree species.

## Plant and material selection

The selection of plants and materials for the landscaping has been inspired by Country and will include plants traditionally used for medicinal and ceremonial practices.

Plants are also selected to suit the aspect and growing conditions and provide seasonal colour and visual interest. Materials are of high quality and connect to place, for example with the use of sandstone and native timber. Materials on the new surrounding built forms contribute to colour, delight and sense of place.

## Urban heat and climate change

Impacts of climate change and urban heat have been considered throughout the design including lighter coloured materials that remain at cooler temperatures, resilient tree species, low water demand plant species, volume of greenery versus hardscape, and proposed tree canopy and vertical greening.

## Pruning and tree removal strategy for the RPA Redevelopment

Some tree pruning and removal is required to make way for the hospital redevelopment project, which will provide improved healthcare services and facilities for our community.

To help inform decisions around tree removal, an extensive environmental impact assessment has been conducted to evaluate the project's effect on the local ecology.

Where appropriate, timber from the tree removal process will be retained and used to create artwork as part of the **Arts Strategy** lead by the Arts Curatorium.

To mitigate the impact of tree removal we have incorporated a comprehensive replanting strategy which includes the planting of new trees within the project area and the surrounding vicinity.

The project team is working with landscape designers to develop a tree replacement strategy to continue to carry out the project in an environmentally responsible manner.



## Meet the Team: Matt Coggan



### Your name

Matt Coggan

### Your role on the project

Landscape Architect for Turf Design Studio

### What has Turf been engaged to do for the RPA Redevelopment?

We are responsible for the external areas of the hospital, and greening throughout the building

### How will Turf enhance the landscape of RPA Hospital?

The redevelopment will provide better access to quality landscape spaces, making connections with nature an integral part of the everyday hospital experience. Major entries and central public areas of the hospital are a key focus to ensure equitable access to this amenity.

### What makes RPA Hospital unique from a landscape lens?

The hospital site has a rich history, and has evolved through various phases of major development. Understanding and celebrating the layers of history – both Indigenous and European – has been one of the more important aspects of the design approach.

### What makes you excited to do the work you do?

Quality landscapes make a significant contribution to health and well-being, and in a hospital environment can greatly assist with recovery. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing people enjoy a place that you helped create.

### How will the natural landscape be celebrated throughout the new building?

Our design makes the natural landscape a feature of the everyday experience. From the hospital entries, along the corridors, and into the hospital rooms, access to the outdoors and views of the landscape are maximised throughout.

### What new landscape designs will be included as part of the redevelopment?

The design provides many more places for people to dwell in the landscape. The entries and places within the hospital have a range of new seating areas. They are designed to accommodate a range of needs; from individuals looking for quiet respite, to larger cultural gatherings. These new spaces are all connected through the hospital by a rationalised floor plan that improves wayfinding. From a planting character perspective, we are retaining the eclectic mixes of native and exotic species in established gardens (such as the Nurses Courtyard), and new works are focused on a native planting palette that features traditional food and medicinal species. Another exciting layer is the public art. We are currently exploring a range of public art opportunities that will feature in key areas, and tell unique stories of people and place.

### What is one of the most important aspects of your role?

The most important aspect of our role is making a positive contribution to health and well-being of the staff, patients, and visitors to the hospital. This is achieved by creating safe and comfortable spaces that have high amenity. Amenity is achieved through legible wayfinding, planting that changes with the seasons, and a diversity of spaces for people to dwell.

### What is the importance of reimagining landscape through Connection with Country?

Connection with Country is important on a number of levels. From an environmental perspective, all people benefit from a Country-led approach. This includes plant selections that are resilient to the local climate, support local native fauna, and respond to the seasons with flower and foliage colour. A welcoming environment that recognises the importance of cultural beliefs and practices will maximise engagement with health services. Indigenous cultures have a particular connection with outdoor spaces, and co-design with the community is key to achieving the outcomes they desire.

### What are three words your family would use to describe you?

I just asked my daughter... she gave me Calm, Funny, Generous!

### What's your favourite song to get you pumped for work?

Empire of the Sun, 'Alive'

### Last great TV show or movie you watched?

I'm really into the 'Alone' series on SBS. The Dark Emu Story on ABC was really great also.

### If you're cooking dinner, what will everyone be eating?

Something vegetarian! Mexican or mushroom burgers are a couple of favourites.


## Where to next?

You can find out more about the redevelopment at: [rparedevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au](http://rparedevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au).

You are also invited to send any feedback, suggestions or comments you would like to raise with the redevelopment team via the contact form on our website or by emailing:

[rparedevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rparedevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au)

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## 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.

**Email:** [rparedevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rparedevelopment@health.nsw.gov.au) | **Website:** [rparedevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au](http://rparedevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au)