



Steven Kons, MHA

Deputy Premier

Wednesday, 25 July 2007

New RHH Site Assessors Announced

Deputy Premier Steven Kons today announced that consultants have been appointed to assess the Hobart Railyards site for the new Royal Hobart Hospital.

"It is very pleasing to announce Pitt & Sherry as our site assessors to provide the Government with this initial and crucial information," Mr Kons said.

"The Hobart Railyards has been identified by the government as the preferred site for the construction of the new Royal Hobart Hospital.

"The next step is to conduct a detailed site assessment of the Railyards to see if it is in fact the best site for the new hospital.

"Pitt & Sherry has begun work on the site, with initial surveying now underway.

"This week they will also begin drilling, which will provide us with information on the site's geological composition."

Mr Kons said the Department of Health and Human Services received five consultancy submissions, four from Tasmanian firms and one from an interstate company with a Tasmanian partner.

"Pitt & Sherry, a Tasmanian firm of consulting engineers, has formed a project team with involvement from local and interstate specialists to provide the diverse range of skills required to assess this site."

Mr Kons said issues to be considered in the assessment of the railyards site over the next six months include:

- detailed assessment of contamination, and costing of remedial works;
- an assessment of the impact of and on surrounding activities, such as port operations, the Hobart City Council sewerage plant and caustic soda plant;
- geological tests and evaluations to assess foundation issues;
- a risk assessment of flooding during extreme weather events; and
- the capacity of existing services including power, water and sewerage, road access and the cost of potential upgrades.

"The outcome of the site investigations will provide important supporting information to assist in the planning of the proposed new hospital project.

"The redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital is certainly the biggest project any Tasmanian Government has undertaken and one of the most important for the future direction of the Tasmanian health system.

“From now until the end of 2008, the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment Project team will investigate development options for a new hospital, including Master Planning, Feasibility Studies and a detailed Investment Evaluation.”

The Hobart Railyards site is bounded by the Tasman Highway to the west, the Queen’s Domain and Cenotaph to the north, Hobart Port to the east and Evans Street to the south.

It includes the Railyards and transport depots but will exclude the Royal Engineers Building.

Further information: Andrew Rhodes: 6233 2757 or 0412 821 274