

Sunday, 3 June 2007

Railyards Investigation For New RHH

The Health and Human Services Minister, Lara Giddings, said today the State Government was in the process of obtaining consultant submissions to conduct site investigations for the new Royal Hobart Hospital.

The Government announced in April that the Hobart Railyards site had been selected as the preferred site for a feasibility study into the construction of the new RHH.

The seven-hectare Railyards site, between the Cenotaph and Macquarie Wharf, was chosen following a six-month site selection process.

Ms Giddings said that the Railyards offer significant advantages and development potential but there were a number of issues that need to be examined, including: The relocation of the Hobart Intermodal Transport Terminal. Any contamination on site. Siting of the Railyards on reclaimed land. The height above sea level.

“To address these issues and determine the suitability of the Railyards for the RHH project, the Department of Health and Human Services has advertised for submissions from consultants wishing to conduct site investigations and assessment,” Ms Giddings said.

“The investigations will determine any significant limitations or restrictions associated with the site that would prevent or affect the establishment of a new hospital and complementary developments.

“They will also determine whether the costs associated with preparing the site are prohibitive.”

Ms Giddings said the successful consultant was expected to be engaged in July.

The investigation and assessment of the Railyards site is expected to take between 6 and 12 months, depending on the testing required and the issues identified.

While the assessment is being undertaken the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment project team will be:

- Working with the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority on scoping of urban

design issues associated with the site.

- Working with Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources planning the relocation of the Hobart Intermodal Transport Terminal.
- Developing a brief that will establish the framework for the planning of the new hospital.
- Engaging specialist consultants to undertake the required planning and evaluation of hospital development options.

“A detailed project plan and business case for the new hospital will be presented to Cabinet late in 2008. This will include site master plan options and the scope, cost and program schedule for the preferred development option.”

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