



# Redevelopment enters final stage

Richard Loader

**W**ith the third and final construction stage of major redevelopment at Christchurch's St George's Hospital underway, chief executive, Greg Brooks, says that the developments will transform the patient experience at the centrally located hospital.

"We have built five new state of the art operating theatres, a fully equipped Intensive Care Unit including an isolation facility, a high tech equipment and instrumentation sterilisation service, a new surgical ward, New Cancer Care radiation treatment facilities and an atrium / reception building," Greg says.

The final stage of the redevelopment has just commenced and will see the completion of new day surgery theatres, a purpose built maternity ward, new laundry, medical supply store and plant room.

The project coordinator, Tony Hunter says while

the project has been challenging it has gone very well: "One of the challenges that we've faced during the construction was to replace some older buildings with some significant new ones, while maintaining all our client services.

"To achieve that we had to have an overall design and break the project up so that we could build a bit, demolish a bit, build a bit and demolish a bit."

Tony says that what has gone very well is that the hospital and construction team has actually achieved that very challenging goal.

"It's been a lot of hard work by the consulting engineers, Powell Fenwick, who had to find where

utility services were connected, ascertain which parts had to be re-directed to ensure we kept existing buildings live while carrying out demolition work or rebuilding."

Tony points out that the second thing that has gone very well has been the hospital's interaction with Higgs Construction.

"We've worked in some very difficult conditions keeping things operational - but Higgs Construction has been very willing and able to work around the hospital's operational requirements to get what is quite a big rebuild done without any untoward event happening."

**"One of the challenges that we've faced during the construction was to replace some older buildings with some significant new ones, while maintaining all our client services."**

Paul Harris, Director of Higgs Construction agrees, saying that his company's role as St George's ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) main contractor made a significant contribution to the successful delivery of the recently completed stages of the project. "In our ECI role we have worked closely with the consultant team and St Georges Hospital from the outset to ensure the completion of the staged works while maintaining services and with minimum disruption to the hospital's operations.

"Our team lead by our Senior Project Manager Mark Weber and our Construction Director Dave Freeman, provided St Georges with the confidence and technical support that a client needs during such a redevelopment."

Built on land along acquired by the hospital six years prior to the earthquakes and specifically for expansion purposes, the construction project was broken up into three phases.

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St George's Hospital CEO Greg Brooks: the developments will transform the patient experience at the hospital.





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The first stage was the construction of a main reception area and two new oncology bunkers housing specialist radiation equipment.



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# Final stage of St George's redevelopment underway

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Known as stage 1A and 1B, the first stage was the construction of a main reception area and two new oncology bunkers housing specialist radiation equipment. The second and third stages involved the construction of a brand new hospital wing collectively housing a large range of client services that were housed in a number of older buildings on the hospital campus, including buildings straddling the redevelopment site.

Stage two involved the construction of one building, while stage three involved the construction of the second building. Stage 1A, 2 and 3 each have individual base isolated foundations but on completion, the foundations and buildings will be structurally joined as one big building.

"It's been quite complex in terms of clearing enough site to do the first half of one building, disconnect utility services from the remaining buildings which were to be demolished, making sure we didn't cut off services to those buildings which were going to remain intact," says Tony.

Upon completion of Stage 2 a little over a year ago, the building was commissioned and became operational with client services from buildings that were to be demolished transferred over.

"There has been quite a musical chairs approach to things in terms of keeping our volumes of theatres and beds available while we cleared away some of the old buildings.

"Between completion of the first building, and the commencement of the second building 8 – 9 months of enabling work was required to remove or temporarily reroute all the utility services out of the way, along with the removal of existing buildings before construction could commence.

With construction of the second building now underway, Tony expects the building to be completed towards the end of 2020. When completed and operating as one large singular building, the new hospital will house a large radiology department, operating theatres, recovery service and day surgery services, new central instrument sterilizing department, medical supplies store, male and female theatre changing rooms, 16 surgical beds and a 6 bed ICU department.

"Once the last of the stages is complete on the top floor we will have another 23 beds, specifically designed to accommodate maternity patients or alternatively surgical patients.

"It really has been quite a success story over the last 7 years."



Built on land along acquired by the hospital six years prior to the earthquakes, the construction project was broken up into three phases.





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