

## Project Update

### Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment

May 2025



# Construction reaches highest point

The NSW Government is investing \$438 million to redevelop the Shoalhaven Hospital, delivering contemporary and expanded hospital services and integrated health facilities for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

The Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment will be the health hub for the region, providing most emergency, critical care, acute, sub-acute, and non-admitted services locally, reducing the need to transfer patients to Wollongong and Sydney.

## What's the latest on the redevelopment?

The Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment celebrated a major milestone in March 2025, with the construction of the new seven-storey acute services building reaching its highest point.

A traditional 'topping out' event was held to celebrate the progress of this exciting redevelopment.

The Shoalhaven Hospital Project team were thrilled to be joined by Minister for Health Ryan Park, Local Member for the South Coast Liza Butler and special guests to celebrate the occasion.

As part of the event, a ceremonial tree was lifted onto the roof, with messages tied to its branches from staff, construction workers, and project team members, sharing their excitement and well wishes for the future hospital.

There are currently around 250 workers on site each day supporting construction, with close to 70% of the workforce based locally. The project is expected to support around 800 direct jobs, with the potential to support thousands of indirect jobs over the life of the project.

Consultation with staff, patients and the community has been a key part of planning and design for the redevelopment, ensuring the new hospital meets the unique health needs of the Shoalhaven region.



## Scaffolding removal reveals new name

Work has commenced on removing tonnes of scaffolding from the newly constructed acute services building, revealing the name change for the hospital. Once redevelopment is complete, the facility will be officially known as the Shoalhaven Memorial Hospital, with the Illawarra and Shoalhaven Local Health District planning to adopt the new name from Tuesday 1 July 2025.

Founded in the 1950s, Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital began as a small facility serving a community of approximately 6,000 people. Over the years, it has

grown significantly, and with the ongoing redevelopment project, the hospital is set to become a major healthcare hub for the region. This expansion will include an increase in services, upgrades across various specialties, and the establishment of the hospital as a key teaching and training centre.

The updated name, 'Shoalhaven Memorial Hospital,' honors the area's rich history and its continued connection with the Australian Defence Force, while also aligning with modern hospital naming conventions.

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## First artist announced



Kirli Saunders OAM

The Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment project is pleased to announce Kirli Saunders OAM as the first artist selected for the hospital redevelopment Arts program.

Kirli's artwork will feature at the North Street Entry and will pay homage to Country including the much-loved Blackbutt Tree on the hospital grounds.

The artist was appointed through a culturally informed tender process in

line with NSW State Government procurement guidelines and advice from local Aboriginal stakeholders.

The artwork will celebrate the local landscape, incorporating the sacred bends of the Shoalhaven River, the ripples of saltwater, and the graceful intersection of eucalyptus branches. The artwork will bring together natural, cultural and architectural elements to create an immersive experience that connects staff, patients and visitors with Country, Culture, and Community.

Hailing from the Amato, Micham, Russell, and Hoskins families of the South Coast, Shoalhaven and Sydney's eastern suburbs, Kirli Saunders is a proud Gunai artist with strong ties to the South Coast community of NSW. Kirli is committed to ensuring the design process is culturally informed through engagement with the hospital's Aboriginal Staff Advisory Group, Elders and the local Aboriginal community.

In February 2025, Artists with a connection to the Shoalhaven region were invited to submit an expression of interest to take part in the arts program. We were delighted to receive 45 submissions and were blown away by the creativity, talent and passion among the local arts community.

A panel of industry professionals and local community stakeholders are continuing to review the applications against the selection criteria and government procurement requirements, and we look forward to announcing more artists as we progress through selection.

Find out more in the [Arts Fact Sheet on the project website](#).

## Women are playing a key role in construction

Women are playing a key role in the construction of the Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment, representing around 13 per cent of the project's total workforce.

The project is currently exceeding NSW Government targets aimed at increasing the number of women in the construction industry.

The Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment is part of the NSW Government's Women in Construction (WiC) focused Infrastructure Skills Legacy Program (ISLP) which is trialing increased targets for women in construction to boost skills, capability, and capacity in the construction industry and increase diversity on building sites.

The \$438 million hospital redevelopment, being delivered by main works contractor John Holland, is one of eight Health Infrastructure projects with a dedicated WiC ISLP officer embedded on site to support the employment, upskilling, and retention of women in the construction sector. The program also aims to improve industry culture, making it more inclusive.

Women in trades currently represent 10 per cent of the Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment's trade workforce,



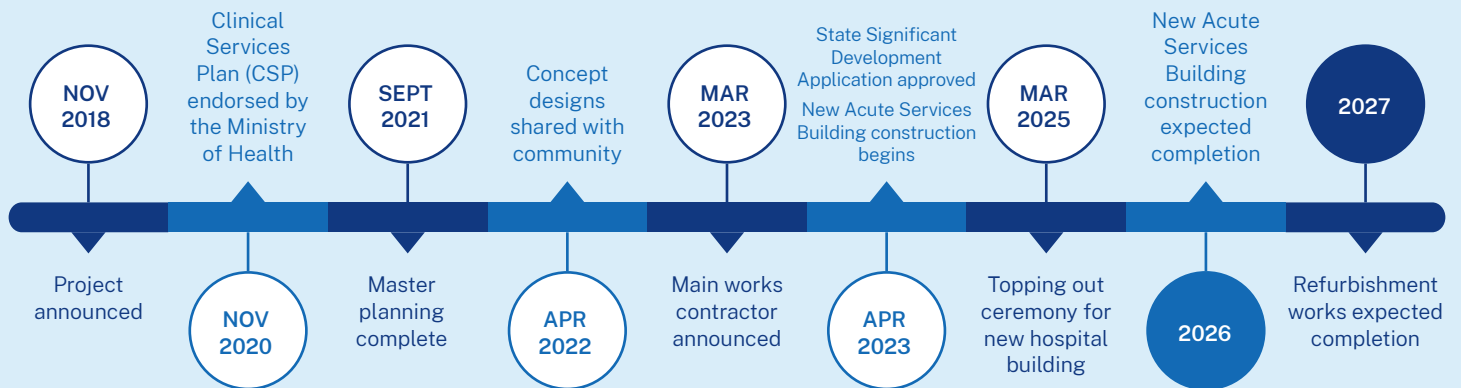
exceeding the 4 per cent target. Women working in non-traditional roles also currently represent 9 per cent of the project's non-traditional role workforce, which is better than the 7 per cent target.

Women working on the Shoalhaven Hospital Redevelopment are contributing across a wide range of roles including a Project Director, electrician, carpenter, safety coordinator, architects and engineers.

Find out more on the project website at [shoalhavenredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au](https://shoalhavenredevelopment.health.nsw.gov.au).

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## Project timeline



## Hospital Café EOI

When the new Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital opens, it will feature a purpose-built cafe right at the front entrance.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) is seeking expressions of interest from retail food operators with experience, creativity, and initiative to provide proposals that will maximise the opportunity for the new retail space at Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital.

For more information and to register your interest [visit the project website.](#)

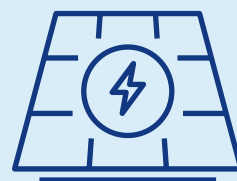


## Fun fact

We're making the most of the sunny south coast at Shoalhaven with enough solar panels to power more than 86 average sized homes!

Now that's a bright idea!

Stay tuned for more fun facts in upcoming newsletters.



Enough solar  
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## For more information

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