

ABORIGINAL ARTEFACTS PRESENTED TO LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL



Thousands of culturally significant Aboriginal stone artefacts discovered at the site of the Griffith Base Hospital were presented to Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council at a ceremony on 14 March.

Murrumbidgee Local Health District Chief Executive Jill Ludford said the artefacts were uncovered in 2020 during archaeological investigations as part of planning for the hospital redevelopment.

“The ceremony was a special and unique opportunity to recognise Griffith’s rich Aboriginal cultural history, and hand over these significant items to the Local Aboriginal Land Council for management and safe keeping,” Ms Ludford said.

“The discovery gave us a very special opportunity to work with the Local Aboriginal Land Council to embrace the significance of the area,” Ms Ludford said.

Board member of Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, Desma Newman, said the archaeological find is significant for the local community.

An initial archaeological exploration located 271 stone artefacts in May 2020, and a subsequent salvage operation in November 2020 led to the discovery of over 3,000 artefacts.

Dinawan's Connection Cultural Dancers, Uncle James Williams, Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council, archaeologist Jillian Comber, community members, MLHD staff and the Redevelopment Team were among those who attended the event.

An information factsheet is available on the project website. See more photos on page 2.

Pictured above (L to R): Chris Jones, Comber Consulting with Vickie Louise Simpson, Stephen Young and Uncle James Williams (holding the bark-wrapped artefacts) from Griffith Local Aboriginal Land Council

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Regional Health Minister announces construction contractor

Minister for Regional Health Bronnie Taylor was in Griffith in February to announce ADCO Constructions has been awarded the contract for the new Clinical Services Building, a significant milestone for the project.

The new Clinical Services Building will include an improved emergency department; significant increase in Aged Care and Rehabilitation beds; operating theatres; surgical, and medical inpatient units including mental health short stay beds as well as maternity, medical imaging and paediatrics; expanded outpatient services with more specialist clinics, renal and oncology services.

“This project will also support hundreds of direct and indirect jobs in the region during construction and many locals will be able to develop industry skills which will provide a boost to the local economy,” Mrs Taylor said.

ADCO NSW State Manager John Basilisco said ADCO has extensive experience in delivering health projects and working in regional areas across NSW.

“We are extremely pleased to have been selected as the builder to deliver the Clinical Services Building, and are committed to engaging with the local community and businesses during the planning and delivery phases of construction,” Mr Basilisco said.

Substantial early and enabling works have been completed over the past two years to ensure health services will continue without interruption during construction of the new Clinical Services Building.

Construction of the new hospital is set to be completed in 2025 before the services are transferred over and the new facility is operational. This will be followed by final works including demolition of old hospital buildings, landscaping and car parking.



Pictured: Minister for Regional Health, Bronnie Taylor, with the Griffith Base Hospital Redevelopment Team



Service Road Closure

The construction site for the Hospital Redevelopment is expanding.

The service road between the Medical Services Building and Animoo Avenue permanently closed to all pedestrian & vehicle traffic from Tuesday 22 March.

Parking is not available along the service road. The construction site is secured with a perimeter boundary fence.

Access to the Renal Unit and Fitpack dispenser is via the Ambulatory Care Hub car park.

Thanks to staff and the community for your patience while these important works are completed.

Project look ahead

With construction of the Clinical Services Building starting this year, here's a quick overview of this year's project activity:

- Establishment of construction site, including contractor parking area and site offices
- Demolition of old Children's Ward and Transitional Aged Care buildings
- Design finalisation
- Development of Art Strategy in consultation with community

