



Hawke's Bay Hospital

National believes that everyone should have the opportunity to access world class healthcare regardless of income, background or postcode.

The current state of the buildings at Hawke's Bay Hospital does not meet this goal.

The average age of the facilities at Hawke's Bay Hospital is 50 years, and the hospital infrastructure is cramped, ageing and outdated, causing significant issues for patients and staff.

National will restore confidence in New Zealand's public health system and deliver care for you, your children and your whānau.

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board is in the middle of planning processes to determine future infrastructure requirements. At present this is estimated to cost \$800 million, which they will advance over 10-15 years.

National will bring forward and fund the largest part of the plan.

National will:

- Immediately begin the installation of air conditioning at Hawke's Bay Hospital.
- Rebuild the Hawke's Bay Hospital main block. Design and development work will begin in 2021, and we would aim to have the diggers on site in 2025.
- Expand the emergency department to cater for growth.

National's investment in Hawke's Bay Hospital combined with our \$300 million roading investment is the largest ever investment in the Hawke's Bay region.

Why is this required?

Hawke's Bay Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Hastings has been Hawke's Bay's regional hospital since the closure of Napier Hospital in 1998. Despite the region's increasing population over the past 22 years, no significant building work has been done to the hospital in this time.

The main block at Hawke's Bay Hospital was built in 1961 and is now outdated and barely fit for purpose. In 2018 Hawke's Bay District Health Board conducted a clinical service review which indicated the current hospital was not a suitable or safe environment for staff or patients.

The problems with the hospital buildings include:

- The occupancy rate is currently over 92 per cent compared to an accepted safe level of 85 per cent.
- No air conditioning or appropriate ventilation.
- Strengthening work is required to bring the hospital up to the minimum earthquake rating.
- A small emergency department that is nearing capacity.

The main block

The main block contains the medical wards and approximately 250 beds. It has been modernised to a limited degree, including some earthquake strengthening, but is still below the standards that New Zealanders expect.

Hawke's Bay is a rapidly growing part of New Zealand. The hospital needs to grow to match this. Between 2013 and 2018, the Hawke's Bay population increased by 10 per cent with 160,000 Kiwis now calling Hawke's Bay home.



This has led to capacity issues at the hospital that will get worse over time unless we act.

Hawke's Bay Hospital also serves a population that as a group have higher health needs. The Hawke's Bay population is older, has a higher proportion of Māori and Pacifica, and proportionately more deprived people than the national average. All three of these groups have been shown to have higher health needs and hospitalisation rates than the general population.

The number of patients who are acutely ill is growing and because of this the growth in demand for hospital services is even higher than the population growth.

The hospital is currently operating at 92 per cent occupancy, well above the accepted safe level of 85 per cent. Hospitals cannot operate at 100 per cent occupancy, as spare bed capacity is needed to accommodate variation in demand and ensure that patients can flow through the system.

Due to the age of the hospital buildings the annual maintenance cost is increasing and approaching \$4 million per year. The increasing maintenance cost is money that the Hawke's Bay DHB will need to reallocate from other services, running the risk of having to lower frontline health services to pay for building maintenance.

National will upgrade Hawke's Bay Hospital's main block, beginning procurement, design and development in 2021 for a world class, fit for purpose hospital. We would look to begin construction as soon as a good design has been agreed. We would expect that diggers would be on site in 2025. An upgrade to Hawke's Bay Hospital's main block will modernise the hospital and bring it up to the standard the people of Hawke's Bay expect and deserve.

Emergency Department

Another part of the aging facility at Hawke's Bay Hospital is that the emergency department is too small to cater for current needs, let alone handle future growth.

The limited size of the emergency department was apparent earlier this year, when Hawke's Bay Hospital had to install a temporary extension to the emergency department to cater for Covid-19 patients. The existing emergency department was not large enough to allow for the required social distancing.

Additionally, nationwide emergency department use is growing at more than twice the rate of population growth, adding further capacity issues to the current emergency department.

National will upgrade the Hawke's Bay Hospital emergency department alongside the redevelopment of the main block. Ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to look after the people of Hawke's Bay today and in the future.

Air Conditioning

Hawke's Bay Hospital has no air conditioning or ventilation, leaving patients and staff in an uncomfortable environment that can be a major risk to health and safety.

Last summer this saw temperatures on the ward rise to more than 30 degrees every day for more than a week, with patients and their families describing the hospital as "an oven".

It is to the credit of hospital staff that this did not have a tragic outcome. Staff distributed fans and ice blocks, and tinted film was installed on ward windows. The staff are to be commended for their actions, however these are not the types of desperate scenes Kiwis expect to see at our hospitals.

National will begin the installation of air conditioning at Hawke's Bay Hospital immediately. This is an urgent project and cannot wait for the rebuild.



Q&A

What is the total value of the investment in Hawke's Bay Hospital?

The total value of this investment in Hawke's Bay Hospital is estimated at between \$400 and \$500 million. The final value of the work will depend on decisions that will be made as part of the business case process.

This includes the investment to upgrade the main building and the emergency department, as well as an estimated \$7 million to install air conditioning.

National's investment in Hawke's Bay Hospital and our \$300 million roading investment is the largest ever investment in the Hawke's Bay region.

How will this be funded?

This will be funded from the Government as part of our Health Infrastructure investment.

Why are we upgrading Hawke's Bay Hospital?

The infrastructure at Hawke's Bay hospital has numerous issues that may affect patient care. The hospital staff deserve the credit for continuing to provide quality service despite these issues, but the time has come to upgrade the infrastructure to ensure patients and staff have the best possible facilities. Including;

- Approaching capacity; with the occupancy rate for the 2019–2020 financial year at over 92%, over the accepted safe level of 85%.
- No air conditioning or ventilation.
- Requiring strengthening work to bring the hospital up to the minimum earthquake rating.
- A small emergency department that is nearing capacity.

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board is currently reviewing their infrastructure requirements. This is currently estimated as an \$800 million plan over 10–15 years. We will bring forward and fund the rebuild of the main block.

What does the upgrade to Hawke's Bay Hospital include?

The upgrade of Hawke's Bay Hospital includes three parts.

- Installing air-conditioning.
- Rebuilding the main block.
- Expanding the emergency department.

When will the upgrade begin?

The upgrade will be done in two stages. The planning and design work to upgrade the main block and emergency department will begin in our first term. We will begin design and development in 2021, for a world class, fit for purpose hospital. We would look to begin construction as soon as a good design has been agreed. We would hope to have the diggers on site in 2025

The lack of air-conditioning is an immediate issue and should not wait for the rebuild. Therefore, work to install air-conditioning will begin immediately.