



## Media Release

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**To:** Media

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**Subject:** **New Hospital Plans Approved**

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The Nelson Marlborough District Health Board has approved a new Master plan for the Wairau Hospital and Health Centre Marlborough.

The new plan was developed after feedback was received in September from the Ministry of Health on the Preliminary Design submitted for review.

The Ministry of Health suggested further improvements for 'way finding' (hospital navigation), future expansion zones and increased flexibility between inpatient areas. The new Master plan will now be forwarded to the Ministry of Health for final sign off.

The project team and hospital staff have developed and assessed alternative designs that address the issues raised. Following an evaluation the most improved design was recommended by the project Steering Group, for approval by the Board.

Wairau Hospital Redevelopment Project Sponsor, Keith Rusholme said, "We have all worked extremely hard to improve the design and it is a credit to all those who have been involved."

In an effort to minimise the effect of the delay from the new Master plan, staff and consultants will have a concentrated period of design development in the New Year.

"We are all dedicated to designing a health care facility that is sustainable for Marlborough and although this process has delayed the overall completion of the project, it is important that we get it right. We are assured that the processes we have followed will provide the best possible result," said Mr Rusholme.

The construction of the new facility would adopt a staged approach to minimise disruption to staff and patients. Building is expected to commence in July 2008 and will take up to 28 months to complete.

A site blessing ceremony and the burying of the Maui (healing stones) is being planned by Maori staff and local Iwi. This will take place early in 2008, prior to the commencement of the construction works.

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