



Media Release

To: Media

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Subject: **Exterior Concepts for New Wairau Hospital Presented**

The exterior appearance of the new Wairau Hospital and Health Centre will be considered this week as the project heads toward the start of construction.

On Tuesday July 1 2008, the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board will review the proposed “exterior concepts” produced by the architectural consultants, Maunsell. These concepts included the design and colour scheme for the new facility.

Feedback from the Board would then be given the project team on the exterior and how it might look.

The concept was designed to blend in as much as possible with surrounding residential buildings. The design incorporates gabled forms, which echoed the rolling Wither Hills; the backdrop to the hospital.

“This redevelopment is our opportunity to bring the quality of Marlborough’s hospital environment right up to date. We’re aiming to create an atmosphere which is as pleasant as possible for patients and staff,” said Chief Operating Officer, Keith Rusholme.

"There may be alterations to the exterior concepts after the Board’s feedback. The design is not something the DHB will consult the public on, as cost, practicality and build-ability needs to be considered," said Mr Rusholme.

A timeframe will be set for completing the final exterior design. Other feedback will be sought from the Iwi Health Board and a community reference group.

In the concept design the main entrance projects outwards, thus giving a defined entrance that would provide shelter for pedestrians and people waiting to be picked up by vehicle. Marlborough’s scenery is mirrored in the proposed interior colour scheme. These colours have been selected to enhance the signage that guides people around the building.

“We want to create an enduring harmony with the community and the landscape by using the familiar forms, materials and colours that make Blenheim special - its ‘sense of place’” commented Architect Carl Grey from Maunsell.

The exterior of the hospital will have a mix of materials including pre-finished steel cladding and decorated rockcote panels, complimented by contrasting glazing to provide interest and identity to the scheme. Solar shading will be provided.

The Mortuary and Stores refurbishment are underway and will be completed in August 2008. Construction is expected to begin in late July 2008 and is estimated to take up to 28 months to complete.

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