



Media Release

To: Media

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Subject: **Wairau Redevelopment Benefits Local Workforce**

The redevelopment of Blenheim's Wairau Hospital is contributing valuable contracting and building work to the Marlborough community.

- There are over 100 workers on site at Wairau Hospital this week.
- Of the current workforce, 69% are from Blenheim, 12% from Nelson and 18% are from Christchurch.
- Of the 22 main construction companies working on the project (companies that are on site week in, week out) about 60% are Blenheim-based.
- Many of the companies based outside Blenheim are endeavouring to employ from the local workforce. For example, about half of one of the Christchurch contracting firm's workforce (David Browne Contracting) have been recruited from Blenheim.

"Recruitment within the Blenheim community is providing stable employment for local construction companies and keeping money within the region. Wages are going into local pockets and the continuing presence of a significantly sized workforce here means more spending locally. This helps to contribute to the local economy and helps to cushion Marlborough from the recessionary impact being experienced in other regions where building activity has decreased by a greater margin," says NMDHB Project Director, Martin Ridgway.

Hawkins Construction Project Manager for the Wairau Hospital Redevelopment, Martin Edwards, adds that there is also another level of valuable benefit to the local workforce from this project.

"The technical nature of a healthcare project like the redevelopment of Wairau Hospital helps to raise the skills of the workforce employed on it - which will ultimately help expand the skills base available in Marlborough for future building projects. Hawkins Construction is strongly committed to health and safety standards in the workplace and takes a lead in this area at industry level nationwide. This approach is continually communicated to the workforce and I would expect it to help raise safety awareness and good practice within those local companies working on the project".

Local construction company, Robinsons Construction, contributes to the Blenheim-based workforce. "The Wairau Hospital Redevelopment is a significant project for Blenheim and Marlborough and is helping to keep local builders and contractors employed during these slower economic times. Robinsons have just over 20 of our team working on the project and we are looking forward to the challenges and healthcare experience that this project will bring over the coming years," says Phil Robinson, Director of Robinson Construction.

Hawkins Construction Ltd works closely with NMDHB to ensure that a fair tender selection process takes place and that all policy compliance requirements are observed.

The key factors taken into account when tenders are considered are quality of work, price, ability to resource the project to meet the work programme, technical ability, depth of healthcare experience, and the ability to provide ongoing support and service.

"Hawkins Construction aims to select sub contractors who can work together as a team with a "best for project" mindset," says Martin Edwards.

"The criteria used for company selection ensures that the new health facility for Marlborough not only meets all the Ministry of Health requirements, but provides our community with a building that is of optimum quality construction and finish," says Martin Ridgway.

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