

To: NSW Planning and Environment

Re: St Leonards and Crows Nest Draft Plan 2036

I am writing on behalf of the Mater Hospital in relation to the release for public exhibition of the St Leonards and Crows Nest Draft Plan 2036.

We wish to express our strong support for the State Government to provide greater focus and intent on developing a medical precinct at the southern end of the St Leonards and Crows Nest precinct.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1906, the Mater Hospital is now a faculty of St Vincents Health Australia one of Australia's leading Catholic not-for-profit healthcare providers.

The Mater Hospital is a leading private hospital. Among the various speciality units in the 233-bed hospital are intensive care, orthopaedic and rehabilitation wards and a large maternity unit. Core specialities include obstetrics; orthopaedics including hip and knee joint replacements, bone and sports injuries; heart, lung and vascular medicine; cancer care and surgery; ear, nose and throat surgery; urology; endocrine surgery and neurosurgery.

Mater Hospital is also a centre for education and research and we conduct a wide range of research projects, particularly in the areas of cancer and orthopaedics. Mater maintains close affiliations with the University of Sydney and the University of Notre Dame as well as several other tertiary institutions for medical, nursing and allied health education.

Given our background and location, we have taken a significant interest in the progress of the master planning for the St Leonards and Crows Nest precinct. We are currently located in a residential zone and our site is experiencing significant growing pains with many of the services we specialise in being areas of increasing demand with an ageing population.

We are also seeing a significant increase in demand for pre and post-operative care which helps reduce hospital stays and cost of in-hospital care. Before and after surgical care is most cost effective off campus but within close proximity. An example of this is our Dialysis Clinic located at 270-272 Pacific Highway, Crows Nest. However, with the advancement in new state of the art medical equipment and technology, it is very difficult to retro-fit an existing building and that is why we were hoping to see greater opportunities open up for new significant buildings with the State Government's master planning of St Leonards and Crows Nest.

Mater Hospital recognises the huge potential to plan for a future medical precinct in the area leveraging off our presence and what we have been able to achieve so far considering the existing constraints. We are disappointed that the

Mater Hospital and the surrounding areas were not given more status in the draft master plan and identified as an area that requires more detailed master planning.

Along with the owners of the majority of strata units at 270-272 Pacific Highway, we have made representations to the Department of Planning along these lines and were hoping that the State Government would see the advantages, particularly in relation to specialised job creation, in providing support for a bookend of medical precincts approach to the master planning of St Leonards and Crows Nest.

We look forward to the Department of Planning's consideration of the issues raised.