

Blue Gum High Forest

The NSW Government is investing \$479 million in the redevelopment of Ryde Hospital to meet the future health needs of the growing community.

The redevelopment will deliver a new and expanded emergency department and intensive care unit, new theatres, new purpose-built ambulatory care centre, new paediatric short stay unit, more adult overnight inpatient beds and expanded medical imaging.

What is the Blue Gum High Forest?

The Ryde Blue Gum High Forest is in the southern section of the Ryde Hospital site making up 3.8 ha of the total 7.7 ha of hospital land.

It is a tall, open forest with predominantly Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) and Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) species. It is also known to contain the Greyheaded Flying Fox and is assumed to be home to the protected Powerful Owl.

The forest is classified as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community (CEEC) under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

What work has been done in the forest?

We have removed invasive weeds from the Blue Gum High Forest to preserve the forest's natural ecosystem and create an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) for the hospital.

An APZ is a fuel reduced area that aims to minimise the risk of fire reaching nearby buildings. Based on our work in the forest to date, a significant amount of fuel has been removed to limit the severity of any bushfire, should one occur.

During construction of the new hospital buildings, revegetation of the forest will continue to further enhance the health of the forest and maintain the APZ. The tall blue gum trees will not be removed.

Following project completion, the Northern Sydney Local Health District will manage and care for the forest and APZ.

How has the forest been integrated into the new hospital design?

The careful design of the new hospital buildings allows for views of the forest from inpatient bedrooms to be maximised.

The proximity of the forest to the new hospital will play a vital role in promoting recovery and improving the overall experience for patients, visitors and staff.



How can I find out more?

To subscribe to our project updates, email rydehospitalredev@health.nsw.gov.au

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