

Department of Health

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File: D26/5359/6

Mr. Scott Hennessy

Secretary

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

Parliament of Tasmania

Via email only: publicworks@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Scott

Subject: Launceston General Hospital Mental Health Precinct – Matters Taken on Notice by DoH at PWC Hearing on 12 March 2026

Thank you for your letter on 09 April 2026 for matters taken on notice by the Department of Health at the Public Works hearing on 12 March 2026.

On behalf of the Department of Health I am pleased to provide the enclosed responses.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter McFarlane

Peter McFarlane

Project Manager

Infrastructure Services Programming and Delivery

Department of Health

Enclosures:

1. Letter from Scott Hennessy to Peter McFarlane dated 09 April 2026.
2. Department of Health responses to matters raised in Enclosure 1.

Enclosure 1 – Letter from Scott Hennessy to Peter McFarlane dated 09 April 2026



Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

9 April 2026

Peter McFarlane
Project Manager, Infrastructure Services
Department of Health
Via email only: peter.mcfarlane@health.tas.gov.au

Dear Peter,

Launceston General Hospital Mental Health Precinct

Thank you for appearing before the Public Works Committee at the public hearing for the Launceston General Hospital Mental Health Precinct on Thursday, 12 March 2026.

At the hearing you and your colleagues committed to provide additional information to the Committee on the following matters:

- 1) Please provide data on the current and projected need for acute mental health services in the north.
- 2) Please provide the cost of the completed groundworks to date.
- 3) Please provide the number of people who objected to the removal of the oak tree at the rear of the site.
- 4) Please provide an updated project cost table.
- 5) Please provide advice on what the current Northside facility will be used for should the proposed works proceed, including the number of beds in the new facility.
- 6) Please confirm whether there will be awnings on the windows of the proposed works.

Could you please provide this information to me by Thursday, 16 April, 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hennessy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Hennessy
Secretary

Enclosure 2: Department of Health responses to matters raised in Enclosure 1.

Q1 - Please provide data on the current and projected need for acute mental health services in the north.

A1 – Statewide Mental Health Services recognises a growing demand for mental health services in the North of Tasmania.

Occupancy rates (capacity) for beds at LGH over the past five years have grown from 87 per cent in 2021 to 100 per cent in 2025. Mental Health related presentations at the LGH have grown from 2,580 in 2021 to 2,768 in 2025 and admissions have grown from 449 to 476 in the same period.

The data (below) demonstrates a continued trend of increasing demand.

LGH Northside	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Occupancy rate (based on 20 beds)	87%	90%	90%	92%	100%
Total admissions	449	415	398	460	476
LGH ED - Mental health related presentations	2580	2698	2842	2715	2768
LGH ED - Mental health related presentations ALOS (hours)	8.8	10.3	10.5	9.9	11.4
Average wait for inpatient mental health bed from ED (hours)	3.1	6.7	6.7	4.4	7.9

Q2 – Please provide the cost of completed groundworks to date.

A2 – All works associated with the demolition of the Viewpoint Building (groundworks) are now complete. The cost of these works to date (31 March 2026) is \$776,123.52 ex GST.

Q3 – Please provide the number of people who objected to the removal of the oak tree at the rear of the site.

A3 – Two (2) people objected to the removal of the oak tree at the rear of the site at the community consultation meeting in October 2025.

Enclosure 2 cont.

Q4 – Please provide an updated project cost table.

A4 – Updated project cost table below.

	Budget
Base Project Cost Estimate (Construction plus Consultants and Design costs)	65,758,000
Design and Construction Contingency	9,384,000
Design and Construction Sub Total	75,142,000
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment	3,500,000
Professional and Authority Permits, Fees and Charges (inc. project management, contract management etc.)	7,974,000
ICT Infrastructure and Equipment	1,051,000
Art in Public Buildings	80,000
Client Cost and Fees Sub Total	12,605,000
General Project Contingency	2,062,000
Total Project Cost Estimate	89,809,000

Q5 – Please provide advice on what the current Northside facility will be used for should the proposed works proceed, including the number of beds in the new works.

A5 – Should the proposed works proceed the current Northside facility will be removed, with the site intended to be repurposed as a seven (7) story Northern Health Complex consistent with the Launceston General Hospital Masterplan.

Initial pre concept planning indicates that the number of beds, in the proposed new works, could be up to 250 which is subject to future demand planning, available budget, final design and necessary approvals for the proposed new works to proceed.

Q6 – Please confirm whether there will be awnings on the windows of the proposed works.

A6 – There will be awnings on some windows of the proposed works.

END