

About K-Block

Fast Facts



View of K-Block from Campbell Street entrance.

The size of K-Block is 39 000 m².

- This includes 10 floors, plantrooms and the helipad and its ante-room.

K-Block will have space for almost 250 inpatient beds.

- It will increase acute inpatient capacity in southern Tasmanian from its current 446 bed capacity to 695 inpatient beds¹.
- This is an increase of more than 35 per cent.

There will be seven more operating and procedure rooms in a new theatre precinct that will extend across level 4 of K, A, C and D-Blocks.

Wards will be arranged in precincts co-locating like services including:

- medicine (general, respiratory, infectious diseases etc),
- surgery (general, neurosurgery, orthopaedic etc) and
- women's, adolescents' and children's (paediatrics, birthing, women's surgery etc).



Ward interior – single room

¹ This includes neonatal and paediatric beds and space vacated by relocating wards.



Interior design – view to admissions and reception on the ground floor

A new one-stop arrivals and departure area for patients will be provided in the Campbell Street entrance.

- This will be adjacent the reception, cashier, café and retail space.

Critical ill patients will be transported to treatment sooner because K-Block will include a helipad.

- Helipad deck is sized to cater for all current and future helicopter types used for medical emergencies.

Over 2 000 treatments per annum will be provided for diving and medical conditions like radiation injury and diabetic wounds at the new hyperbaric chamber² that will be built on level 3 of K-Block.

² A hyperbaric chamber is a special chamber that increases the amount of oxygen in the blood. Hyperbaric therapy helps heal wounds more quickly. It is used to treat serious infections, gangrene and radiation injury for example. As a major aqua-industry area, it is commonly used to treat decompression sickness such as from a diving injury. The current chamber is approaching the end of its operational life.

A temporary hyperbaric chamber will be leased so ongoing service delivery is assured away from the construction zone where the current chamber is located.

The temporary chamber will be located on the RHH campus.

5 500 m² of earth will be excavated from the site to build K-Block.

A typical floor plate is 3 000 m² with concrete poured in quadrants.

6 000 m² of precast panels will be used to create the K-Block façade.

A safe, low impact methodology will be used to demolish B-Block which will take a number of months to complete.

The methodology will be finalised during the tender for the demolition sub-contract that will be advertised shortly. However, it will involve the gradual dismantling of the building using appropriate machinery rather than collapsing it.



State of the art hyperbaric chamber at Perth's Fiona Stanley Hospital

The interior colours of K-Block are also inspired by our local landscape: sky and water blues, landscape greens and earth tones.

Mount Wellington and the Derwent River are the inspirations behind the interior design of K-Block. Shades of green will feature on the mountain side and blue will feature on the river side of the new inpatient facility.

The building's façade has been designed to complement Hobart's natural and built environments, and acknowledge aspects of our local heritage. The shadow of Hobart's iconic Mount Wellington is reflected in the design of the façade. The façade's grid of panels is reminiscent of the Rajah Quilt, hand sewn by female convicts on their voyage to Van Diemen's Land in 1841.



Ward level interiors – mountain side reception (LHS), public lift lobby (centre) and river side reception (RHS)



Ward level interiors – mountain side bedroom (LHS), staff base (centre) and river side bedroom (RHS)



K-Block external façade finish from Constitution Dock.