



**Greg Robinson**  
Chief University Infrastructure Officer, University Infrastructure

9 July 2020

David Waddell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Orange City Council  
PO Box 35  
Orange NSW 2800

**Attention:** David Hodges, Director Development Services

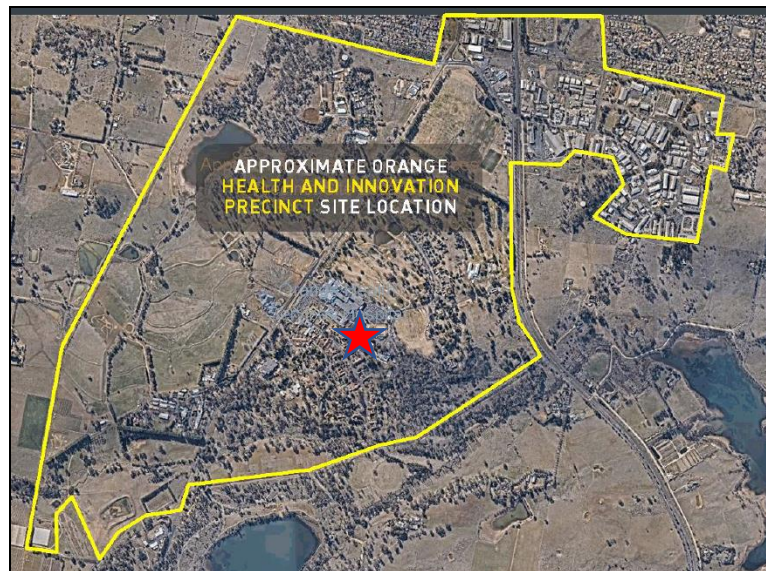
Dear Mr Waddell

### **Orange draft Health & Innovation Masterplan**

I refer to Council's recent exhibition of the draft Health & Innovation Masterplan and thanks the Council for the opportunity for The University of Sydney (the "University") to comment on the draft.

The University fully supports the objectives and initiatives outlined by the draft Masterplan and seeks a continued role as stakeholder to the Health & Innovation Precinct in pursuing the implementation of this expanded precinct.

**The University of Sydney's School of Rural Health:** The University runs the School of Rural Health (the "SRH"), Bloomfield Hospital, 1502 Forest Road, Orange. Our site lies within the draft Masterplan's proposed "Health & Innovation Precinct" (illustrated below by the red star):



The SRH is a rural clinical school where students in Years 3 and 4 of the Sydney Medical Program experience what it is like to live, study and work in rural NSW for at least one year.

The SRH provides a unique cooperative educational environment with exceptional teaching facilities, accessibility to clinical expertise and mentorship within a supportive community of University clinical, educational, research and administrative staff. Over the past 16 years, the School has developed a network of relationships, including State and private hospitals, GP practices and private specialist practices, Aboriginal Medical Service, primary health care providers and the Western NSW Local Health District to create a rich environment for our students to thrive in, where they have the



opportunity to access rural patients across a breadth of patient scenarios and a learning environment supported by a team of excellent medical professionals.

The SRH also provides an academic focus for clinicians, teachers and researchers who wish to become part of the University presence in a rural environment. Our funding comes from the Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program (RHMT) of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

**The draft Masterplan Objectives:** The University understands that Orange Council has:

- targeted the Health sector as the key economic driver for the city and the region and a significant opportunity for further growth; and
- consequently, prepared this draft Masterplan in close consultation with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) to encourage further growth in the sector and to identify opportunities and constraints in the Bloomfield precinct.

These objectives have led to Council's preparation and exhibition of the draft Health , prepared by Hames Sharley, and to which the University responds.

**The draft Masterplan Challenges:** The University recognises that a number of key challenges face the Health industry as a consequence off the planned population increase of the City of Orange:

- The catchment of Orange has a shortage of medical / health related professionals relative to population need (particularly the primary catchment area), with around 60 health/medical professionals per 1,000 residents (compared with 150 across the 'Rest of NSW' and 126 'nationally').
- Orange suffers from being below the "rest of NSW" in its' provision of general practice medical services, pathology, dental and other allied health services.
- A projected 12% increase in the demand for GPs and Allied Health services by 2036.

**The draft Masterplan - Opportunities:** The University notes and supports a number of key benefits and opportunities that are likely to emerge from the draft Masterplan:

- The University supports Council's request (to NSW Government) of having the precinct designated as an Activation Zone. This status will provide the precinct with a status of State or regional significance, will attract potential investors into the precinct, and will benefit from a coordinated approach to land use and infrastructure planning and have the best access to NSW Government incentives.
- The Health sector is one of the largest sources of employment in jurisdiction of Orange. The draft Masterplan will therefore heighten the level of interest in the Health sector including the university's SRH
- The draft Masterplan provides opportunities to develop complementary Health services and life sciences education and research around the existing Orange Health Service Public Hospital and Orange Agricultural Institute, by broadening the services available, enabling business synergies and improving community access to education and research services.



- The draft Masterplan will serve as a catalyst towards improved and expanded Health Care services to cater to the growing and ageing population of Orange, including expansion of all health care sectors inclusive of mental health services.
- The principal Health precinct destination of Forest Road will be activated and supplemented by the creation of commercial and public accommodation linking the educational and health precincts through activity hub.
- The draft Masterplan provides for improved public transport connections to rail and bus stations and interchanges, including provision of a more frequent free bus service for students, senior and access impaired users, as well as new footpath connections.
- The draft Masterplan encourages other mixed uses and contributing services including retail, commerce, residential, sports and culture, to support the Precinct's educational facilities and community infrastructure that extends Orange's City Centre.
- The draft Masterplan recognises and provides for surrounding general residential growth areas and supporting recreation open space, which will assist in housing medical staff, students as well as the general public.
- The University supports the proposition of a bespoke planning instrument that will allow for simplified planning processes for development within the Precincts.

The University welcomes the opportunity of continuing as a stakeholder in the evolution of this draft Masterplan and in further clarifying our contribution to the Health & Innovation Precinct. Our contact at the university is Juliette Churchill, Director Design Engineering Planning & Sustainability, and who can be contacted on [Juliette.churchill@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Juliette.churchill@sydney.edu.au) or mobile 0407262401.

Sincerely,

*(signature removed for electronic distribution)*

**Greg Robinson**  
Chief University Infrastructure Officer