

## **Private Hospital Plans Progress**

“Plans for the new private surgical hospital to be built in Masterton have taken a step forward with the appointment of local firms into two key roles,” says Dr Colin Hutchison. “Silverwood Architects are leading the design process for the site and Callum Sutherland, from Tararua Construction Management, will be Project Manager for the build.”

Dr Hutchison is Managing Director of Matua Health, which recently build Kaweka Private Hospital in Hawkes Bay. In December 2022 Matua and the Selina Sutherland Trust announced a formal partnership agreement to develop and expand surgical care in the Wairarapa, based on a local ownership model.

Around 65% of non-emergency surgical procedures are currently done in the private hospitals in New Zealand. “Many of these elective surgeries are funded by Te Whatu Ora, which allows capacity in the public system to be freed up for the peaks and flows of emergency surgery,” says Colin. “The rest are funded by ACC, health and workplace insurance companies and self-funding patients. There is real opportunity to expand the range and number of surgical procedures offered locally in the Wairarapa, by providing access to more theatre space, surgeons and specialist surgical equipment.”

Konrad Schwanecke, local Orthopaedic Surgeon and a Director of the new hospital agrees. “There is a growing need for elective surgery here over the next five to ten years. Our population has grown, and we need to grow with it. Expanding private hospital care is not possible without development of new facilities.”

Land has been purchased on Te Ore Ore road opposite Wairarapa Hospital. The new hospital plans include two operating theatres and a 6-bed recovery area, an endoscopy suite, a variety of specialist treatment rooms and 13 bedrooms with ensuites. In addition, radiology is being planned for the site.

“It is important that the new hospital can flex to support the changing health needs in our region,” says Jill Stringer, a Director of Selina Sutherland Trust. She confirmed that the new partnership will continue to work collaboratively with Te Whatu Ora in the long-term, aiming to provide expansion of healthcare in the region.

Colin says “While the facility design process is well underway, we have also started raising the funds required to complete the approximate \$20 million new facility.”

**Ends.**

### **For further information:**

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