

Media release

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Preliminary engineering inspection indicates early approval of Wairarapa Hospital's seismic work

Wairarapa DHB management is pleased to learn it is well on track with its work on the seismic restraints in the hospital ceiling, after a successful preliminary inspection visit by the original engineering inspectors this week.

Stage One of the project is almost complete, and by mid-March all the heavy plant and services in the ceiling space will have been properly restrained.

“The engineering team and the building contractors have done a wonderful job to deliver within the expected timeframe. They were sometimes required to work in the evenings to get work done in areas of the hospital where daytime disruption was not appropriate, and their willingness to do so was very much appreciated,” said Wairarapa DHB’s Chief Executive, Adri Isbister. “Staff and patients have been very patient throughout the last seven months. The project has progressed with minimal disruption to hospital services, which is credit to the smart work of the whole project team.”

“We started the restraint project in June last year and the building work began in October. Over the past four months, a team from Holmes Construction has been installing the engineer-designed restraints of mechanical plant and services in the ceiling,” Isbister said. “Now that we are on the home straight with the Phase One work, we expect to see a design for Stage Two next week.”

While Stage One saw restraints installed to secure the heavy items in the hospital ceiling, Stage Two involves the construction of a specific structural / restraint design to address three large plant units that require a more complex solution to mitigate their safety risk.

“We need to build an additional structure near our Medical Surgical Ward reception space to assist with the restraint of a several pieces of plant,” Isbister explains. “Then, once Phase Two is complete and all our services and plant in the ceilings are appropriately secured, we need to look to the primary structure of the buildings as well as the connected structures.”

“The Wairarapa DHB board and executive team is grateful for the professional and collegial way in which our expert team have worked with us on this project. Our priority is always to staff, patients and their families, and I believe the Wairarapa community has been very well served in the delivery of the seismic restraint work.”

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