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Private hospital precinct proposed for North Lakes



Medical precinct an artist's impression of the proposed 200-bed hospital at North Lakes which may be open in 2012, if the development plan is approved.

200-bed boost

By MIRANDA FORSTER

NORTH Lakes will get a new 200-bed private hospital and medical centre if Moreton Bay Regional Council approves a development application.

The proposed 2ha site for the hospital precinct is on the corner of North Lakes Drive and Memorial Drive, fronting Anzac Avenue. The first stage, slated for



A 10-storey, 200-bed private hospital would be finished in 2016. The developer Port Binnli's CEO Jeff Smith said the group had

completion in 2012, would feature an eight-storey medical centre for specialists and a 12-storey, 120-room hotel for patients' relatives.

received preliminary project approval and was waiting on formal approval. Council received the application for a specialist medical centre and private hospital from North Lakes Private Hospital Pty Ltd last month.

Redcliffe and Districts Local Medical Association president Dr Wayne Herdy, pictured, said the hospital would be a boon for residents of North Lakes and sur-

rounding suburbs. "A private hospital can take the load off the public sector and can expand the range of services available to residents in the area," Dr Herdy said.

"A 200-bed hospital is a substantially-sized facility and if it had a private emergency department then people with acute, life-threatening emergencies could reach a facility close to their home without having to go to Cherm-

side Hospital or in the case of a neurological emergency through to the Royal Brisbane Hospital in the city, or for children, the new children's hospital at South Brisbane."

Dr Herdy also welcomed the planned medical centre, saying there was a demand in the area for general surgeons, eye specialists and psychologists, and other specialists.

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Hospital for Lakes

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Dr Herdy said: "With the retirement village at North Lakes and the nursing home at Halpine Lakes, there's also going to be an increasing population of aged people with chronic diseases."

A council spokesman said the application process would take three months and could be tracked online at www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au.

"Because Anzac Ave is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register the proposed development will also need to be approved by the Queensland Heritage Council," the spokesman said.